

Thatcher urges world to back blockade as Britons are taken away from their homes at gunpoint

Europe agrees joint action against Iraq

By Andrew McEwen in Paris and Nicholas Wood in London

THE Prime Minister yesterday called for the whole world to back a naval blockade of Iraq as six West European nations agreed to co-ordinate operations to enforce the sanctions imposed by the UN.

Margaret Thatcher said international support for a blockade was the best way of averting a war in the Gulf, and while the British and American military policy was legal, they would like the "extra authority of the whole world" through a UN resolution that specifically authorised the use of force to ensure compliance with the sanctions.

The UN Security Council deferred a decision on such a resolution in the early hours of yesterday. Yemen promised to turn back Iraqi tankers, but the first Iraqi oil to escape the blockade was later unloaded at Aden.

Britain, France, Spain, Italy, The Netherlands and Belgium yesterday agreed to share the task of stopping Iraq's supply lines. They will meet on Friday to decide how to pool their intelligence, logistical support and precautions against air attack. They will also attempt to harmonise their rules of engagement.

France announced that it would send ground forces to the United Arab Emirates and instructors to Saudi Arabia, while Mrs Thatcher indicated that she, too, was considering sending soldiers to the region. Spain said that it would send four warships to the Gulf, and

West Germany announced proposals to change its constitution so that it could deploy forces outside the Nato area when acting in support of the UN resolutions.

Soon after the Western European Union agreed its concerted effort, the 12 European Community countries

Kuwait were being held at military sites, government sources said yesterday. The Foreign Office confirmed that 127 Britons had been detained over the weekend and the department knew where 75 of them were, although they had been denied consular access.

Mrs Thatcher yesterday condemned President Saddam Hussein's tactics of detaining Westerners and said she would not negotiate to free them. In her first public comments on the Gulf crisis for two weeks, she told a news conference in Downing Street: "We are gravely concerned about the callous way in which Iraq is treating the British and other foreign citizens and are very concerned about them and the anguish it is causing their families here. It is deeply repulsive and no civilised country behaves in this way."

"Saddam Hussein is trying to hide behind Western women and children and use them as human shields and use them as part of his negotiations. We do not intend entering into negotiations. These people are entitled to certain fundamental rights, which have been totally flouted to the repugnance of the whole of the civilised world."

Meanwhile, Iraq warned France that its nationals would also be moved to military bases and key installations if Paris joined the blockade, as it had indicated on Sunday.

President Saddam yesterday reiterated his justification for trapping 13,000 Westerners in Iraq and Kuwait, saying: "This is not a way of revenge, but to deter President Bush taking action against the Iraqi people." In an "open letter" read on Baghdad television, President Saddam urged Mr Bush to seek a peaceful solution or face global disaster. "If Bush were to attack, a grave disaster would take place, not only regarding the region, but regarding the whole world," he said.

The Iraqi leader rejected Mr Bush's speech on Monday comparing him with Hitler and said it was the American president who was acting more like the Nazi dictator. A response to the Iraqi initiatives was the only way for Mr Bush to avoid being equated with Hitler, he said.

At the same time, Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign min-



Hammering home the message: Margaret Thatcher at her press conference yesterday

ister, told a news conference in the Jordanian capital of Amman that Baghdad was offering to hold talks with the United States. "We are ready to discuss the situation in the Gulf and other situations," he said. "If they are ready to talk, we are ready to talk."

President Mubarak of Egypt yesterday again called on Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait, saying: "I appeal to President Saddam Hussein to save mankind from a destructive war which would destroy all greenery and lands. God only knows how frightening the end would be if it was started, what the losses and consequences would be if the fire broke out. It would take us

backwards to darkness and loss."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation called for a new Arab summit to open talks with President Saddam and urged an end to the military build-up in the Gulf. Aff Sfeih, the PLO's chief official, said: "I propose a freeze on troop deployment and that troops already deployed should be placed under UN command."

But Iraq continued to build up its strength in Kuwait as the last soldier left Iran after the eight-year Gulf war. President Saddam was reported to have moved 36 launchers, including all its mobile Scud missile launchers to Kuwait,

raising the spectre of chemical warfare attacks on oilfields, cities or American forces in Saudi Arabia. Kuwait has also told the UN that Iraqi occupation forces have mined all the country's vital state installations, including power stations, oil refineries and ports.

In a letter to the UN secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the Kuwait UN charge d'affaires said Iraqi forces were destroying the country's infrastructure by "plundering, looting and destroying the moveable and immovable assets and property of banks, companies and government and private financial institutions." They had also seized 15 airliners.

Rift over Red Cross action on hostages

By Daniel Treisman and Alan McGregor in Geneva

A SERIOUS rift developed last night between Britain and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Margaret Thatcher attacked the ICRC for not taking adequate action to protect foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, saying that Britain had contacted the committee on August 8 and 10, but nothing had been done so far. Mrs Thatcher said: "We are deeply disappointed that action has not yet been taken."

An ICRC spokesman last night denied that the organisation was not doing enough, and outlined steps it had taken since the crisis began. The head of the committee's Middle East zone had flown to Baghdad on Monday night with a message for the Iraqi foreign minister, she said. The organisation had maintained a continual dialogue with Iraq and other states since the beginning of August, she added.

A reception centre for refugees will soon be set up in Jordan on the border with Iraq, in cooperation with the Red Crescent. "Obviously we're very concerned about the civilian population in both countries, including foreign nationals. We will continue

our efforts," the spokesman said. Meanwhile, William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office minister, yesterday met the committee's president, Cornelio Sommaruga, in Geneva, to express Britain's frustration at its citizens being held hostage.

"Mr Sommaruga shares our anger and frustration," he said. The president told him of the ICRC's efforts to gain access to foreign nationals prevented from leaving and he was confident the organisation would "bend its skills and efforts to this end," he added. "Their success depends on their gaining access. 'People should be brought out in convoys marked by ICRC flags.'"

Controversy touched the organisation in March last year after 200 staff members wrote to Mr Sommaruga, a former Swiss diplomat, calling on the leadership to show "a little more courage" in confronting international violators.

The letter, which spoke of a "crisis of confidence", prompted Mr Sommaruga to promise "structural reforms" this year. A new director general, Guy Deluze, took office in January.

Yemen lets ship break blockade

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN NICOSIA

YEMEN pledged to turn away one Iraqi tanker yesterday but allowed another to unload what was believed to be the first Iraqi oil to escape the naval blockade.

Western hopes were raised when Yemen told the UN Security Council it would turn away one of two tankers that had defied US warships at the weekend and was steaming towards Aden. Last night the *Baba Gurgur* was waiting offshore. But the 36,330-tonne *Ain Zalah* was allowed to slip past patrolling Yemeni gunboats and unload at Aden. Yemen's surprise pledge had raised hopes that it would be the latest of Iraq's allies to throw in its lot with the international community.

Two more Iraqi tankers were in Aden last night, although it was not clear if they had arrived before Yemen made its limited pledge.

Saudis seek a million doom suits

By Michael Horsnell

HUGE orders for British-made "doom suits" to protect allied soldiers and civilians in the Middle East from chemical attack by Iraq have been received by the defence ministry. They include a request for more than a million from Saudi Arabia.

The nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) suits, made under licence by three British companies, are widely regarded as the best protection in the world, but their popularity is likely to lead to tough governmental decisions as maximum weekly production is 2,000.

The demand is coinciding with growing scientific concern about the suits' usefulness. British Aerospace has been appointed by the ministry's sales organisation as co-ordinating contractors for the project as war looms. Already

Continued on page 20, col 3

Tough years for economy

The British economy faces a year ahead of long-term inflationary pressures are to be removed, say economists at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

In a generally gloomy review, economists at the Paris-based club of industrial nations says that there is no sign that the rise in inflation has been firmly stopped and that the government faces a bigger challenge of bringing inflation down. Page 21

Science meet

Often written off as a Victorian relic, the British Association for the Advancement of Science mysteriously continues to flourish, with a growing audience who this week will hear 300 lectures, some brilliant, some strange, and some, it has to be admitted, slightly mad. Page 5

Platform rescue

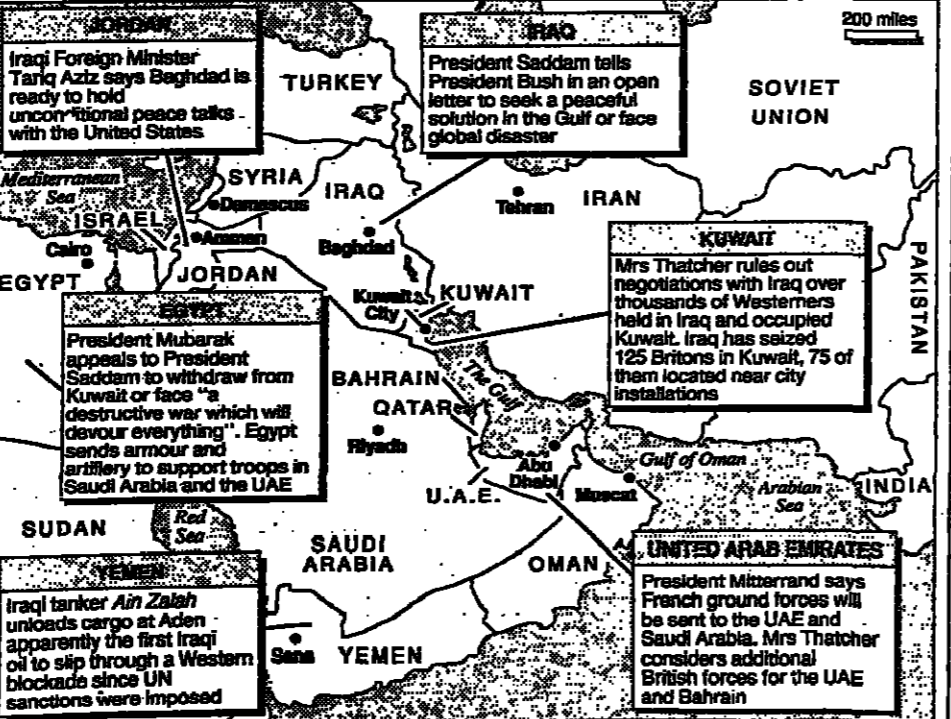
ALL 49 oil workers, ordered to abandon the accommodation platform West Gamma roped together in darkness and 30 ft waves just before it capsized in the North Sea, arrived safely in the Danish port of Esbjerg. Page 4

Artillery battles

With artillery battles continuing between India and Pakistan, V. P. Singh, the Indian prime minister, said yesterday Pakistan was shelling border posts and his country was responding with "appropriate fire". Page 9

Degree courses

The Times will publish tomorrow a list of vacancies remaining for degree courses at British universities. Vacancies in polytechnics and colleges of higher education appear today. Pages 33-35



Timetable agreed by East Germans

FROM GILKARD STEICHEN IN BONN

POLITICAL leaders in East Germany's parliament, after weeks of bitter feuding, yesterday agreed on a timetable for German unification, but the decision drew sharp criticism and debate from party ranks.

The prime minister, Lothar de Maizière said he and faction leaders of all political parties represented in the Volkskammer had forged a compromise agreement calling for unification to take effect on Oct. 14. The compromise was at least a temporary victory for the prime minister, who has been fighting against growing calls for immediate German unification to throttle the nation's

increasing economic and political turmoil. But the dispute continues to simmer. Some political leaders have urged that a vote on immediate unity be held today. Yesterday's agreement could serve to avert the emergency vote, although the mood in the Volkskammer remains volatile and many deputies appear to oppose the decision.

Social Democratic (SPD) leaders said there was great disagreement within its delegation. "This timetable is by no means certain," said the SPD leader, Wolfgang Thierse. He said it was possible that Continued on page 20, col 6

Derided Sinclair C5 has last laugh at 72mph

By Kevin Eason

MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ADAM Harper is set to put an end to the motoring joke which almost cost one of the country's best known brains his reputation. Mr Harper, aged 26, plans to drive a Sinclair C5, the electric car which drivers had to pedal up hills, at more than 80mph to win the British land speed record for an electric car.

The attempt, in October, will no doubt be greeted with mirth among experts, who condemned the tiny three-wheeler when it was rolled into the public gaze by Sir Clive Sinclair, the computer genius whose business activities won the admiration of the prime minister.

The C5 was Sir Clive's nadir six years ago when a disbelieving public was confronted by the plastic trike, powered by an electric motor made by Hoover. Looking more like a toy than a road-

going vehicle, the C5 was capable of only 15mph and the driver had to pedal furiously to help the tiny washing machine motor get the better of steep hills or go faster.

However, it might yet be shown that Sir Clive was ahead of his time. Mr Harper, who owns a bicycle shop in Kent, says that the C5 now changes hands at up to £2,500 each, and he is about to undertake its abilities by breaking the current 67mph electric vehicle land speed record. His adapted C5 has already reached 72mph in tests and he confidently expects to pass 80mph in his quest to rehabilitate the reputation of the midget runabout.

The C5 used in the record attempt will have an updated version of the original C5 engine, supplied by EMD, an electric engine manufacturer and exporter from Essex. With all this power, however, the

problem will not be getting up speed, but stopping, so Mr Harper will be carrying a drag parachute of the type used by Nasa for braking just in case the two-mile runway at RAF Elvington, North Yorkshire, is not long enough. The C5 used in the record-breaking run will also have motorcycle wheels and tyres and Mr Harper will be wearing the same protective clothing worn by a formula one driver.

The record attempt will be the last chapter of a story which started for Mr Harper when he bought 600 C5s from a film company three years ago as a speculative investment. His move was not an immediate success, but a rail strike and the growing interest in the environment brought about a revival for the little trikes which were soon commanding prices of £900 among customers looking for novelty transport.



Harper: has ordered a braking parachute

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THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: WESTERN PRESSURE

EUROPE

Ministers agree to co-ordinate naval operations in Gulf

From ANDREW MCEWEN in PARIS

SIX West European naval powers agreed yesterday to co-ordinate their operations in the Gulf to enforce United Nations trade sanctions against Iraq. Britain, France, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands and Belgium, all members of the Western European Union, are to share the task of stopping Iraq's supply lines.

They will pool their intelligence, logistical support and precautions against air attack and will attempt to harmonise their rules of engagement. West Germany, also a member of the union, announced proposals to change its constitution so that it could deploy forces outside the Nato area when acting in support of UN resolutions.

Soon after the agreement, the 12 EC nations agreed to refuse an order by Iraq to close their embassies in Kuwait by Friday. All recognised that this would place their diplomats in danger, but argued that it was essential to show a united front. They issued a joint warning to Baghdad that any attempt to harm the

Europeans held in Iraq and Kuwait would "provoke a united response".

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, made it clear that they were considering a political, not military response.

The ministers also warned individual Iraqis that they would hold them "personally responsible" under international law for any illegal acts. Mr Hurd said he hoped this would have some effect. He hinted that if at some future time Iraqis were called to account for harming Europeans, they would not be able to argue that they have obeyed orders.

The naval and political moves were linked in that foreign ministers went directly from the union meeting to the EC meeting. This underlined a view held by some European countries that the union is the EC's substitute for a defence policy. The linked moves were clearly intended to show Europe as a significant element in the international response to the invasion of Kuwait. Mr Hurd emphasised

that the naval operations would be "alongside, in parallel with" similar action by the United States, Canada and Australia.

The military significance might have been greater but for a lack of agreement over how much force could be used when intercepting vessels attempting to break sanctions. The Dutch delegation at first implied that it would only wish to follow vessels, not board them, but later appeared to go along with a consensus.

Dr Willem van Eekelen, the secretary-general of the union, who is a former Dutch defence minister, was asked whether the seven-nation force was prepared to shoot if necessary. He replied "in principle, yes". Mr Hurd described the decision to co-ordinate forces as "an impressive display of European solidarity". Tom King, the defence secretary, said there had been "incredible unanimity".

In a symbolic gesture two British supply ships were sailing to the Gulf yesterday in convoy with two Dutch warships and were expected to be joined by two Spanish vessels.

Britain and France, which appeared last week to be at odds over how UN trade sanctions should be implemented, seemed to have settled their differences. This was probably made possible by the French government's decision to allow its warships to use force if necessary.

After a breakfast meeting with Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, Mr Hurd said: "The positions and analysis of France and Britain are pretty close together."

West Germany has been unable to send ships to the Gulf because it is forbidden under its Basic Law to deploy forces outside the Nato area. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, and Gerhard Stoltenberg, the German cabinet minister, agreed to propose changes in the Basic Law, making it possible for Germany to deploy forces in areas such as the Gulf when supporting UN resolutions.

Mr Hurd said: "It is very welcome that a united Germany will be able to play a fuller part in the defence of a wider Europe."

The meeting was seen as the most important in the 36 years since the union was formed. It was the second time it had agreed to co-ordinate naval operations, the first time being in 1987, during the Iran-Iraq war.

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European divisions, page 11



Tom King, left, the defence secretary, talking to Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, before the Western European Union meeting in Paris yesterday at which six countries agreed to co-ordinate Gulf naval operations

BRITAIN

Ground forces may go to protect RAF

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister confirmed yesterday that the option of sending British ground forces to Saudi Arabia or to the emirates, possibly to protect RAF fighter aircraft, is being considered.

But the likelihood that Britain will become more militarily involved in the stand against Iraq has presented the Ministry of Defence with a dilemma.

So far, with the commitment of two fighter squadrons, three Nimrod maritime reconnaissance aircraft, two VC10 tankers, Rapier anti-aircraft missiles, signals units, three minesweepers and a total of 1,700 naval, army and RAF personnel, Britain's contribution has been a token gesture, though an important one.

The contribution was concocted at short notice as a sign of Britain's willingness to join a multi-national effort. The intention was to complement the American forces being sent to Saudi Arabia.

Now the ministry must consider a far bigger commitment, although Mrs Thatcher seemed to be hinting that additional forces might be sent to Dubai or one of the other emirates. Alan Clark, the minister for defence procurement, recently returned from the area.

Since air power is considered to be the key factor in deterring the Iraqis from invading Saudi Arabia, it appears more likely at this stage that Britain may send more Tornados to the region.

One question has been whether British troops could be used in an offensive capacity. Mrs Thatcher implied that she preferred a defensive role when she spoke of the need to have people on the ground to protect RAF fighter aircraft.

Defence officials have been considering whether it would be appropriate to send elements of 5 Airborne Brigade. This is Britain's strategic reserve force and, if there was a drawn-out conflict, the ministry would be reluctant to commit it to long-term operations in the region.

But the planners at the defence ministry are looking at a number of other units which could be sent if the government decides on ground forces. These include elements of 3 Commando Brigade, which consists of

Marines and army support elements including gunners and engineers. The brigade, based at Plymouth, played a principle role in the recapture of the Falkland Islands in 1982. Other units being considered are 19 Infantry Brigade, based at Colchester and 24 Air Mobile Brigade, based at Catterick.

Both 19 Infantry Brigade and 24 Air Mobile Brigade, each with about 4,000 men, have large supplies of Milan anti-tank weapons, which could be used in a defensive capacity against an assault by Iraqi armoured divisions on air bases in Saudi Arabia, such as the one at Dhahran, where the RAF Tornado F3 squadron is located.

Although Egypt has now offered to send tanks to Saudi Arabia, the possibility of Britain sending Challenger or Chieftain tanks from West Germany is ruled out because of the limited seafight capacity. Since the Falklands campaign, when 52 ships were taken up from trade, including roll-on-roll-off ferries, container ships and passenger liners for transporting aircraft, armour, other vehicles, fuel, food and troops, the merchant fleet has been heavily reduced.

UNITED STATES

US mothers bid sons farewell with dread in their hearts

From SUSAN ELLICOTT in NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

HALF-stifled sobs of women and children have filled the world's largest naval base for the past two weeks as the navy ships out its biggest deployment of sailors since Vietnam. The word is not on their lips, but the thought is very much on their minds: war.

"There she goes," whispered Marlene Edwards as she pushed the USS Guam carrying her son, Dale, out into the channel. "He's 27 but of course he's still a baby to us. Right, Daddy?" Her husband, a towering Virginia cattle farmer named Emmett, crumpled a tissue as he inclined his straw hat in a reluctant nod. They couldn't see their boy, but they waved anyway.

The white dress uniforms of the sailors on the ship's flight deck turned to silhouettes in the heat haze over the water as families shuffled their way back to their cars.

"We're more worried than usual

this time, because of all that's happening," said Mrs Edwards, her eyes welling with tears. "We don't know how long this one will be. Just so long as every one of them comes back okay."

They drove more than 1,000 miles last weekend to collect their son from the naval base for a family reunion at their farm and to return him for his early morning departure.

Dale Edwards is one of an estimated possible 200,000 American troops who could find themselves in the Gulf after President Bush's call for military action against Iraq. The number-plates in the visitors' car park last weekend showed that families had driven from California, Florida and other far-flung states to say farewell to their relatives.

About 40 ships have left Norfolk during the past fortnight for the Mediterranean and the Gulf, carrying thousands of tons of military equipment and often a couple of

thousand marines and sailors each.

The speed of the mobilisation has left families and veteran sailors in shock. "Seems kind of bare around here," said Ed Cantrell, a part-time barber at the base since retiring 32 years ago after 25 years of duty.

"I've never seen anything like this," he said. "Many of the troops did not expect to leave port so soon, let alone find themselves on an open-ended mission which could lead to their first experience of warfare."

"I didn't join the navy to kill people," said Brad Mackenzie, the legal officer on USS Iwo Jima. "It paid to put me through school. But if President Bush says 'go' then I know he must be right. We'll wait until everyone is in place and then we'll go in hard."

Throughout the base are signs that the rapid deployment has caught the navy unawares. A billboard proclaims: "Base Bash, Aug 31-Sept 3. Be there." The family counselling service has received a flood of calls from navy wives and husbands

anxious to sort out last-minute problems.

Many of the sailors have reacted to their deployment with a mixture of trepidation about the possibility of chemical warfare by Iraq and relief that the preparations are over.

Crews worked through the night to load supplies on to the two Jima on her last Saturday in America as several marines snatched some sleep in their bunks.

Those allowed off ship for a final taste of life ashore gathered on the dance-floor of Knickerbocker's nightclub a few miles from the base, or drove to the commercialised seashore of Virginia Beach resort for an evening at one of the many singles bars.

Many of the troops are not old enough to drink legally in their own country. The average age of the crew on the flight deck of the navy's most hazardous jobs, is 19. "I'm not looking forward to it at all," said

Seaman Kaminski. "It's scary."

Some of the girlfriends who waved goodbye on the piers of Norfolk were barely 16. Plenty of the wives now left waiting are in their early twenties with children.

But one of the biggest shocks to anyone unfamiliar with the navy is how quickly the ships leave harbour to begin their two-week voyage. Little more than 15 minutes pass between the moment the lines are cast off and the throny sound of the siren as a warship moves away from her tug.

The emotions of the bystanders are compressed into a quarter of an hour.

As the USS Nassau prepared to leave, women drew hearts in the air, blew kisses and waved farewells to their men on deck. Some waved their hats in reply. "If I remember what it's like, you're too depressed to wave," said Lieutenant-Commander Seamus O'Boyle. "It's an awful feeling standing there and watching your wife cry."

UNITED NATIONS

Yemen averts disaster for West

From JAMES BONE in NEW YORK

AT AROUND 1am yesterday, diplomats preparing to enter a closed-door session of the UN Security Council began taking bets on whether the meeting would end by 5am.

The United States, which called the emergency meeting, had set that as the deadline for adoption of a resolution authorising navies in the area to stop ships breaking the UN embargo on Iraq. Shortly afterwards, according to US diplomats, a loaded Iraqi oil tanker would leave the Gulf for the safety of the territorial waters of Yemen, in effect breaking the UN sanctions.

Ricardo Alarcon, the Cuban ambassador and the council member most strongly opposed to the US initiative, was asked where he would put his money. "You are asking the wrong question," he said. "The question is not whether we will finish by 5am, but whether we will start by then." The bleary-eyed diplomats, who had already adopted four resolutions against Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait, were eventually rescued by Yemen, the council's sole Arab member. Abdullah Saleh, al-Asthal, the Yemeni ambassador, announced that Yemen had decided to respect the mandatory UN sanctions and take delivery of the Iraqi oil. That decision averted what one diplomat called earlier in the evening a "total disaster" for Western powers seeking UN approval for naval action.

By calling the emergency meeting to try to force through their plan, the Arabians threatened to ruin five days of groundwork by other permanent members of the Security Council. Non-American diplomats saw the move as premature.

Thanks to the Spanish assistance, the Security Council broke up at 2am, agreeing to postpone consideration of a draft resolution proposed by the United States until "an early date". That gave Britain, France and the United States time to canvass support from the "other" two permanent members of the council - China and the Soviet Union - and its other 10 members before pressing the resolution to a vote.

The draft prepared by the Americans was changed several times during the midnight consultations - but its purpose was clear. In the words of Mr al-Asthal, it was intended to give a "green light" to navies to stop shipping to and from Iraq.

The last text presented to the meeting called "with immediate effect upon all member states which are deploying maritime forces to the area to use such minimum force as may be necessary under the authority of the Security Council to verify the cargoes and destinations of all inward and outward merchant shipping and in what regard to ensure strict enforcement of measures laid down in Resolution 661", the sanctions resolution.

Both Yemen and Cuba openly opposed the draft. Mr Alarcon of Cuba said: "What the council should do is make it clear that nobody should use military force, that no one is authorised to use military force by Resolution 661."

The Chinese oppose the presence of foreign navies in the Gulf, saying it heightens tensions in the area and makes a peaceful solution more difficult. Diplomats indicate, however, that they are unlikely to use their veto power to block the American proposal.

The Soviet Union on the other hand, hoped to gain some control over Western navies in the Gulf by setting up a UN command mechanism.

THE SPO

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KUWAIT BORDER

Experts play down Iraq's 'shaky' army on frontline

FROM CHARLES MILLER, IN A POOLED DESPATCH, DHAHRAN

IRAQI forces dug in close to the Kuwait border are in a shambles and reduced to stealing water and siphoning petrol from civilian cars, according to British intelligence sources. The sources said the capabilities of the 120,000 men from President Saddam's Republican Guard had been grossly exaggerated, and they believe Iraqi supply lines are so bad that a full-scale invasion with reinforcements is all but impossible. Most of the troops dug in 10 to 15 miles behind the border are young teenagers described as "shaky".

It was being emphasised at the Dhahran military complex in northeastern Saudi Arabia that the Iraqi troops did not appear to be a "poised force". One intelligence source said: "Their re-supply lines are a

shambles." Early over-estimates of the strength of President Saddam's forces in Kuwait were the result of troops being moved around the country. The threat of chemical weapons was also being played down.

The huge air shield of American, British and Saudi warplanes all but rules out a successful air strike by Iraqi bombers, and American Patriot ground-to-air missiles are capable of destroying Soviet-built Scud missiles armed with chemical warheads.

Although Iraq has produced large quantities of blister agents such as mustard gas, it has only small amounts of the nerve gases Tabun and Sarin, both of which would degrade quickly in the extreme temperatures in Saudi Arabia.

Some of the Iraqi soldiers are as young as 16 and Air Vice-Marshal Sandy Wilson, commander of British forces in Saudi Arabia, said: "There is a danger of giving too much credit to Saddam's capabilities."

But he did not underestimate the professionalism of Iraqi pilots. The Iraqis have a small number of Soviet MiG-29 and French Mirage F1 fighter aircraft. Their second-line aircraft, however, are old and vulnerable. Britain's 12 Tornado F3 fighters are flying regular sorties with American and Saudi warplanes. Radar contact has been made with Iraqi aircraft, but Air Vice-Marshal Wilson refused to elaborate.

An integrated command structure has been established between the three air forces, although each remains under separate national command.

The military build-up at Dhahran is continuing and every day the air defence shield is strengthened. "It is a comfort to me that as a result of the Iraqis' ability to get chemical weapons through, is increasingly reduced," said Air Vice-Marshal Wilson. "Rapidly anti-aircraft missile batteries sent from Britain were being held in Cyprus because Britain had decided the air defences provided by the United States and Saudi Arabia were more than adequate," he said.

British Aerospace workers in Saudi Arabia for a multi-billion-pound arms deal are working round the clock servicing Saudi Tornado and Hawk aircraft. Don McClen, chief executive of BAE's operation in Saudi Arabia, said his men had achieved 100 per cent operational readiness for the Saudi aircraft.

He said the 3,500 British workers were concerned about exaggerated reports in Britain on the situation in the Gulf. Fewer than 20 had decided to return home, and most of them had done so because of worries about their families in Britain.

About 800 wives and children had returned to Britain from Saudi Arabia, said Mr. McClen. BAE would withdraw only if instructed to do so by the British government.

Sir Alan Munro, Britain's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, said one of the biggest problems was the propaganda battle being waged by President Saddam. He described it as "insidious", but emphasised that it was now being countered successfully.



Desert watch: Airman Peter Robinson and Gary Morris guarding an RAF Tornado fighter, part of the multinational force gathered against Iraq, in Saudi Arabia yesterday

IRAQ

Saddam goes underground to thwart assassination attempts

By HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq is a former assassin who thinks that he knows all the tricks to which his enemies might resort if they wanted to kill him. He therefore goes to extraordinary lengths to thwart them.

Some of his precautions are traditional. Others are distinctly of this age. If the CIA decides that the best way to lift his shadow from the Middle East is his physical destruction, the task might not prove easy, even if access to him could be gained.

President Saddam has not been seen in public since August 3, when he made an unannounced appearance before the Iraqi national assembly to explain his invasion of Kuwait the previous day. Since then, he has been seen in a news bulletin on Baghdad television only once, when he received the puppet ministers of the new Kuwaiti regime.

The austere appearance of the room in which that ceremony was held stood in contrast with the gaudy palaces President Saddam has built for himself all over the country. It is thought that he

has retreated to a concrete bunker, of which he has built many, including one in a suburb of Baghdad that is said to be secure against nuclear attack.

Even during the most secure spells of his rule over Iraq, for example since the end of the Gulf war with Iran two years ago, President Saddam has taken no chances with his personal safety. His frequent "meet-the-people" excursions were no more than masquerades. They were always unexpected, and his bodyguards would cordon off the chosen location for hours before his arrival of his convoy to search all residents.

A British politician who sought an audience with the Iraqi leader says that after passing through numerous checkpoints and a thorough body search, he was made to wash his hands with a strong detergent "to minimise the risk of transmitting a disease" to President Saddam.

Those seeking President Saddam's company are usually also made to change into new clothes issued by guards before they are taken into his

presence. This precaution may have been inspired by the memory of "the exploding mullahs" in September 1970. A few months after concluding a peace agreement with Mustafa Barzani, the late leader of the Kurdish autonomy movement in the northern highlands, President Saddam persuaded a number of Arab religious leaders to visit Barzani hidden under their robes "so that we can ourselves hear what Barzani has to say". The recorders were packed with dynamite and were exploded by remote control as Barzani began to speak. If a man serving tea had not stood between him and the mullahs, the Kurdish leader would have died instantly.

Even his ally King Hussein of Jordan found himself at the receiving end of President Saddam's paranoia last year. The monarch was made to wait on the tarmac at Amman airport for hours while a succession of empty Iraqi aircraft landed. The president eventually emerged from a small executive jet.

During the war with Iran,

his whereabouts were kept so secret that, by their own admission today, his senior ministers sometimes sought him for five days before finding him. One minister, Samir Najm, was once found carrying a pistol when he arrived for a cabinet meeting. He was severely beaten by the palace guard. When he was at last allowed to enter the cabinet room, he did not dare complain. Instead, he praised the guards for their vigilance.

Bodyguards must fulfil two conditions after passing the most rigorous checks on their backgrounds. They must come from one of the Bedouin tribes of Takrit, Shammar or Obaid, and they must be shorter than President Saddam. The guards are then given many privileges.

In common with the caliph Harun ar-Rashid in the ninth century, and Nicolae Ceausescu, the late dictator of Romania, President Saddam has official food tasters. This came to light last year when Baghdad radio announced that the president's eldest son, Uday, aged 29, would be tried for the murder of his father's chief food taster at an official party for the wife of President Mubarak of Egypt. (Uday has been reinstated as chairman of the Iraqi Olympic committee.) President Saddam is said to wait at least half an hour for signs of possible illness in his food tasters before he eats from the dishes they have partially consumed.

Above all, perhaps, the task of would-be assassins would be made more difficult by President Saddam's preference for not spending two successive nights in the same place, and by his travelling in fleets of at least 20 identical cars or helicopters.

A former British cabinet minister told *The Times* this week that, none the less, the Americans always knew where he was. This is said to be because of the volume of radio traffic that accompanies his guards. If so, it might explain why President Saddam has retreated to underground bunkers and why he is said to be displaying "nervous eyes".

LEBANON

Beirut's economy takes hard knock

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BEIRUT

ALTHOUGH the Gulf confrontation has not brought more violence to Lebanon, it has inflicted severe economic damage. But experts are holding out hope that Beirut might become a leading candidate in the Middle East for new investment.

For the past 16 years, the Lebanese economy has been based on the grinding civil war and its by-products. Money spent on arms and ammunition, invisible funds from drug trafficking and remittances from expatriates constituted the main sources of national income, said Nazih el-Kurd, an economics expert.

Most of Lebanon's skilled labour had emigrated to the West or the Gulf and sent money home, he said. The Palestine Liberation Organisation and Iranian-backed groups such as Hezbollah ensured an inflow of about \$400 million (\$208 million) a year to fund their militias and proxies. Until August 2, the economy was able to adjust to the political and financial stagnation.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait, the immediate effect on Lebanon was an unusual but uneasy calm and a de facto ceasefire. But Lebanese relief was ended by sudden economic deterioration. The value of the American dollar soared to a record 910 Lebanese pounds from 600 before the invasion of Kuwait. Prices also rose. Bankers attributed the collapse to factors ranging from fear of war to the loss of substantial remittances from the Gulf.

Wealthy Lebanese based in the Gulf fled to the West rather than return home, while poorer expatriates who did return became a burden on the economy, said Mr. el-Kurd. The total loss, according to Marwan Iskandar, an economist, corresponded to \$800 million a year. In addition, the PLO's support for Iraq meant a cut in funds provided by oil-rich countries opposed to Baghdad.

Mr. el-Kurd said the only hope for Lebanon lay in restoring calm and stability so it would attract investment and skilled labour. "Now that the boom in the Gulf has ended, Lebanon is the only candidate to inherit prosperity," he said. "We are the only country in the region with a free-market system and virtually no foreign debt."

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Deck hands: An officer signalling to the pilot of a Lynx helicopter to take off from the stern of HMS Jupiter, a Leander class frigate, during a routine Gulf patrol yesterday

AMMAN NOTEBOOK by Christopher Walker

Jordan exodus quickens as expatriates lose nerve

In the eerily deserted dining room of the Holiday International Hotel in the Red Sea port of Aqaba, the Filipina waitress serving the only occupied table whispered discreetly so that the Arab members of the staff would not overhear: "Do you think it is safe to stay? We are all very frightened that we will get caught in the middle."

Just across the bay, the lights of the Israeli resort of Eilat twinkled with deceptive allure, a reminder of Jordan's uncomfortable position between the Jewish state on one side and Iraq on the other. It is no surprise that most flights to all destinations from Amman are fully booked, particularly since Monday when the United States advised Americans to leave.

Anti-American demonstrations are now so commonplace that protesters have run out of American flags to burn. Many shops now refuse to stock American cigarettes and the Pharmacists' Association is organising a boycott of American-made drugs.

Despite the intense dislike of America and all that it stands for in the Gulf, a queue is still to be found outside the US embassy every

morning as Jordanians, including those of Palestinian origin, line up in the hope of obtaining a US visa.

Widespread belief that Israel will become a part of any Gulf conflict has left shelves in Jordan's supermarkets stripped of many kinds of food, causing shortages of canned goods, rice and sugar. Fights have occasionally broken out as housewives compete for the few remaining packets.

The run on essentials has been increased by the influx of tens of thousands of penniless foreign refugees from Iraq and Kuwait. Up to 20,000 are arriving daily and stretching the resources of the tiny Hashemite kingdom to the limit.

The tension is reinforced by the daily newspaper advertisements in which heads of important tribes, trade associations and other bodies express fulsome support for King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein. The king has ordered a crash programme in civil defence training and mass recruitment to a new "popular army". A search has begun for gas masks as Khalid Tarawneh, the former civil defence chief, said that a previous order for 250,000 had not been met "for

financial reasons". The Amman Municipality has begun cleaning a dozen underground air-raid shelters which have been unused since the 1970 civil war.

Then, as now, the headquarters for the press is the Intercontinental Hotel, across the road from the US embassy. Among the best-informed guests are members of a crew from the American ABC television network recently invited into Baghdad to interview Tariq Aziz, the foreign minister. "We went as his guests and he was responsible for our safety," said one producer. "So it was disconcerting to find that officials at the foreign ministry were becoming increasingly isolated from the leadership. One even had the courage to tell me privately he was opposed to the policy of using the hostages as human shields."

One member of the ABC team discovered some of the American hostages crammed together on three upper floors of a Baghdad hotel, closely guarded by members of the Mukhabarat, the Iraqi intelligence service. "They had nothing to do, so most left their hotel room doors open and sat out

in the corridors gossiping and desperately trying to fill in time," he said.

The visas for the trip were obtained through the Iraqi embassy in Washington and designed

to give maximum publicity to the message for Mr. Aziz.

Followers of the ABC crew who make the vain, daily journey to the unfriendly Iraqi embassy in Amman have quickly come to learn the meaning of the Arabic word

Im looking for Amman

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So, what's new?

MPs accuse oil companies of profiteering

By PETER MULLIGAN

THE Office of Fair Trading was urged yesterday to launch an investigation into recent petrol price rises as MPs accused the oil companies of profiteering from the confrontation in the Gulf.

The latest increase at the pumps by Texaco, Esso and BP, adding 3.2p to a gallon, prompted an angry response from politicians who said that the rise was premature. Margaret Thatcher told a press

conference at Downing Street that the government had appealed for petrol prices to be no higher than what was strictly necessary.

However, in a defence of the oil companies, the prime minister said that oil was difficult to store and that supplies bought at \$13-\$15 a barrel had now to be replaced at \$28-\$29. She said that oil companies would not stay in business if they did not replace stocks

now costing twice the price. Frank Dobson, Labour's energy spokesman, criticised "petrol price profiteering" and called for an assurance from ministers that it would not be allowed to continue.

Mr Dobson urged the OFT to hold a swift and thorough investigation, and said that Labour had set up a monitoring unit to make regular checks on petrol prices. He called on John Wakeham, energy secretary, to restrain the oil companies, contrasting the lack of action by ministers with measures taken by the French government to impose a ceiling on petrol prices.

Kenneth Warren, a senior Conservative MP and chairman of the trade and industry select committee, speaking on the Radio 4 Today programme, said: "I do not see why our businesses and employment should suffer for the profits of the oil companies. In this country, we have a powerful force in the OFT. We ought to get them switched on to grab the oil companies by the throat and say: 'Look, stop this'."

The OFT said that an investigation was most unlikely so soon after one carried out by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in February which largely exonerated the industry.

Oil prices, page 21

Some roads lead to under £2 a gallon

MOTORISTS wishing to steer clear of higher petrol prices would be well advised to go to the wilds of west Wales or to the fastness of east London where four star unleaded petrol costs just under £2 a gallon (Tim Jones writes).

While some dispensers of refined black gold, notably at the Mobil Fountain garage in Park Lane, charge £2.43.7p, prices in the rest of the country vary without apparent reason.

At the Premier Service Station, in Manchester, four star costs £2.08.7p and unleaded £1.96.4p, prices similar to those in Walthamstow, east London. Meanwhile, the Ac-

tion chain of garages in west Wales were selling four star at just under £2 yesterday.

In Cardiff prices varied between £2.09 and £2.18. This compares with a national average at Tesco forecourts of £2.04.6 for four star and £1.91 for unleaded. In Birmingham, prices ranged from £2.17 to £2.04 for four star and £2.04 to £1.90 for unleaded.

In Aberdeen, four star cost £2.17 and unleaded £2.04. On Skye, prices were £2.21 and £2.07 respectively and in Shetland £2.23.6 and £2.13. In Glasgow, prices were £2.20 and £2.10 for four star and unleaded compared to £2.17 and £2.04 in Edinburgh.



Ernest Saunders eating lunch near the court yesterday

Guinness jury has first night in hotel

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE jury in the Guinness trial spent last night in an hotel after retiring late in the afternoon to consider its verdict.

Mr Justice Henry, the judge, concluded the fifth day of his summing up by telling the jury: "The overriding issue is whether the prosecution has satisfied you as to the dishonesty of these four defendants who are all men of previous good character."

Ernest Saunders, former chairman of Guinness, Gerald Ronson, head of the Heron Group, Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, a financier, have all denied a series of charges variously alleging theft, false accounting and breach of the Companies Act during Guinness's takeover of the Distillers drinks group in 1986. It was alleged that they participated in establishing an illegal share support operation to boost the Guinness price and ensure success in the brewing group's takeover battle with the Argyl supermarket chain.

The judge told the jury: "I hope I have been even-handed because that was my intention. I hope that is the way it seems to you, if you do not agree you can make any correction necessary."

Mr Justice Henry said the jury would not be asked to reach verdicts on two of the 22 counts on the indictment. He said that at some future point he would accept majority verdicts but that stage had not yet been reached.

Strikes delay North Sea safety work

By KERRY GILL

CHEVRON has postponed a £20 million programme to fit underwater emergency safety valves in its North Sea Ninian field, the third largest in the UK sector, because of the recent strikes by oil workers.

The work, made essential after the Piper Alpha disaster in 1988, should have been completed before the end of next month but now cannot be carried out until next spring because of deteriorating weather.

Greg Matink, general manager of Chevron UK, said the risk of disruption by striking contract workers threatened to put the safety of everyone on the platforms at risk. He said he had every reason to believe the 24-hour stoppages would continue and could be escalated at any moment to last up to 48 hours at a time.

Chevron's three platforms in the field have been among North Sea installations affected by the five, 24-hour strikes called by the unofficial offshore industry liaison committee in the past two weeks. The strikers are fighting for union recognition offshore, as well as improved safety and working conditions.

The North Sea oil industry is spending £750 million on safety requirements this year. It is accepted that the explosions and fires that led to the death of 167 men on Piper Alpha were made worse by the lack of similar emergency valves, allowing hydrocarbons to escape and ignite. Topside safety valves have to be fitted by December 31, although Chevron has completed this work. There is no similar timescale for the underwater valves to be fitted but all companies are attempting to install them quickly.

BP is also postponing work on an emergency shut-down valve on the Ninian pipeline and Shell, too, indicated that it

could delay similar work on its platforms. A Shell spokesman said his company hoped to complete all maintenance and safety work by the end of the year.

He added: "Obviously, however, if the unofficial action continues indefinitely and has an accumulative effect in delaying progress of such work, the timetable may be threatened. Shell Expro is keeping the situation under review."

David Odling, chairman-designate of the Offshore Contractors' Council, said his organisation had repeatedly warned that the strikes would affect safety work. "The fact that we have been proved right is of no satisfaction to us. Given the increasing lack of support for these strikes, it is clear the irresponsible actions of a small minority are affecting initiatives designed to ensure a safer working environment for all offshore workers. It is perverse in the extreme," he said.

Ronald McDonald, chairman of the liaison committee, accused Chevron of throwing up a smokescreen in order to carry on production. "They are crying crocodile tears. Their real reason for not fitting valves is 400,000 barrels of oil a day," he said. Mr McDonald added that the workforce that would have been engaged on fitting the valves were not to be called out on strike.

Legal action by Shell, who obtained a court order removing men sitting in the platforms and hotels in the recent field, was adjourned until tomorrow.

Shell said the liaison committee, which plans to oppose the action, asked for more time to prepare their case. The hearing will be held at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

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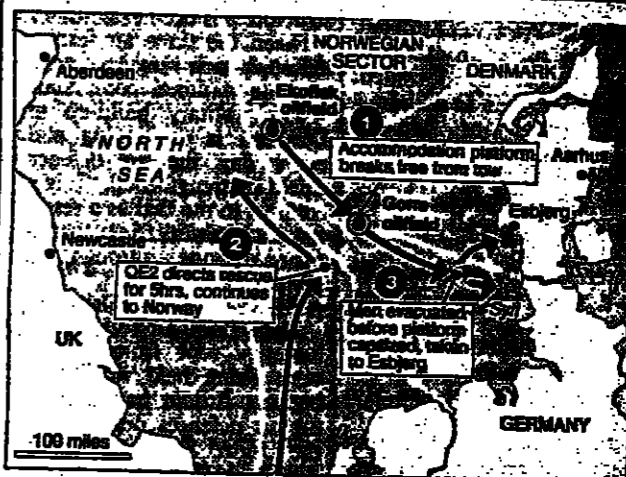
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HALIFAX



Rescued rig men's bravery praised

By CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT AND ROBIN YOUNG

ALL 49 oil workers rescued from the accommodation rig West Gamma, which capsized in the North Sea in early yesterday arrived safely in the Danish port of Esbjerg later in the day. Danish coastguards said that the men, 46 Norwegians, two Dutch and a Briton, had survived because of "sheer professionalism and brave fighting spirit".

The West Gamma rig broke loose from a tow on Monday while being moved from the Norwegian Ekofisk field to the B11 gas pumping station in the West German sector of the North Sea. Winds of up to 90 mph tore away part of its helicopter deck, making it impossible to airlift the men to safety.

At first it was thought that the men were in little danger as West Gamma was blown south-eastwards across the Danish Gorm oilfield. The liner QE2, en route from Southampton to Norway with 1,750 passengers, changed course to offer help. The QE2 has a helipad, but a plan to winch the men from the platform to the liner was abandoned on Monday evening when they said that they preferred to stay on the platform, then 130 miles off Esbjerg, and wait for the winds to drop. The liner left after five hours.

At about 3am yesterday, conditions worsened and the West Gamma started shipping a lot of water. The commander ordered the men into the sea, wearing lifebelts and roped together in groups to make it easier for them to be found in the 30 ft waves, and the platform capsized at 3.09am, 47 nautical miles west of the island of Sylt off the Danish-German border.

In pitch darkness and a fierce gale, six Danish and Norwegian rescue vessels put out lifeboats to save the men in the water, but it was almost two hours before all 49 were aboard ships.

Sven Vorkort, of the Danish coastguard rescue centre in Aarhus, Jutland, said: "It was only because of the professionalism and brave fighting spirit of all those involved that it was possible to bring everyone to safety."

The Briton on the rig was a 61-year-old man, Michael McGuire, aged 61, a resident of Newry.

Abattoir reform
Proposals to bring British slaughterhouses into line with European Community standards from January 1 were announced by the agriculture ministry yesterday. Veterinary inspection of animals before slaughter will be introduced, and slaughterhouses will have to pay for fresh meat to be tested for residues of veterinary drugs. The changes may cost the industry £2.4 million next year.

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*COMPOUNDED ANNUAL RATES (C.A.R.) APPLY WHEN FULL INTEREST REMAINS IN THE ACCOUNT. BY OPENING A 90 DAY XTRA ACCOUNT YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY AND ARE BOUND BY THE RULES. A COPY OF THE RULES IS AVAILABLE AT ANY BRANCH. ALL INTEREST RATES QUOTED ARE NET OF LIABILITY TO BASIC RATE INCOME TAX AND ARE VARIABLE. A MONTHLY INCOME OPTION IS AVAILABLE AT LOWER RATES OF INTEREST. CONTACT A BRANCH FOR DETAILS. WITHDRAWALS OF OVER £500 IN CASH OR £100,000 BY CHEQUE MAY REQUIRE SECURITY CLEARANCE AND PRODUCTION OF IDENTIFICATION. PRIOR ARRANGEMENT IS RECOMMENDED. FOR THE SAME REASON, CHEQUE WITHDRAWALS AT AGENCIES OVER £5,000 MAY REQUIRE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS. HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE, HX1 2BG.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION

From abstract to madcap, science jamboree retains its lure

SWANSEA this week is the host to a peculiarly British institution, a week-long jamboree of science in which ordinary citizens mingle with professional scientists and high-tech society needs (Nigel Hawkes writes).

That, at least, is the theory behind the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which celebrates its 151st annual meeting here this week. Often written off as a Victorian relic, no longer relevant to the future of Britain, the BA mysteriously continues to flourish, attracting outstanding scientists and a growing audience of lay people.

The organiser of this year's meeting, Connie Martin, is "absolutely delighted" that a record 2,500 people have registered to attend. A further 2,000 are expected to come in from the local area for the odd day. They will be able to listen to 300 lectures, some brilliant, some strange, and some,

it has to be admitted, slightly mad. In many lecture halls it has been standing room only.

The choice is catholic, ranging from off-beat topics such as "Is God left-handed?" — a lecture in the chemistry section of the programme — to an account of deforestation and industrial pollution in the Middle Ages. Later in the week, a geologist from Switzerland is answering the perplexing question "Is Gaia Endothermic?" while a Japanese professor will discuss the impact of Western science on 17th century China.

At the Hands On science exhibition, children can confront some real scientific principles in the form of games — balancing a beachball on a current of air, or producing perspective drawings with a device invented by Leonardo.

Once scientists used association meetings to report original research results. James Joule, the scientist who took a thermometer on his honeymoon and used it to measure the difference

in temperature between the top and bottom of a waterfall, chose a BA meeting to announce his discovery of the value of the mechanical equivalent of heat. Sir Henry Bessemer announced his steelmaking process at a BA meeting in 1856 and Sir Oliver Lodge demonstrated wireless transmission in 1894.

In 1860, the year after the publication of *The Origin of Species*, there was the legendary clash at the Oxford meeting of the association between Darwin's defender, T. H. Huxley, and the Bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce. Few arguments this week will have the resonance of that debate, when scientific theory collided with religious certainty and emerged the winner.

Today, scientists save their newest work for the professional journals or for specialist meetings but those who believe, with their president, Sir Claus Moser, that "few things are more important than the search for and the dissemination of

knowledge", dig out some interesting facts and figures for the association.

The atmosphere at a BA meeting is confusing, but cheerful. The audience ranges from those who have been coming for over half a century to schoolchildren. Many sessions take place at the same time, involving difficult decisions about whether to plunge into physics, chemistry, geology, or one of the 16 sections which each organise their own programmes.

The 1980s were not especially happy years for science, with many complaints about declining budgets and standards, but the BA meeting has never been a glum event. The lecturers may declare that intellectual life as we know it is no longer possible, but do so in a cheerful manner and then repair to South Wales's best fish and chip shop in The Mumbles, as they did after Sir Claus Moser's presidential address on Monday. The scientists seldom stay all week unless they are

office holders. The permanent cast are the audience, people who enjoy getting to grips with the difficult concepts of modern science and do, not mind the rigours of student accommodation.

The association's credo is that science is too important, and too interesting, to be left to the scientists. It is a survival from a better world, where the educated man could expect to be conversant with the whole of knowledge. As science has become professionalised, the BA has defiantly retained its amateur status.

Its message, too, seems to have been remarkably consistent. The prime mover in its foundation was David Brewster, editor of the *Edinburgh Journal*, who declared that triumph in the Napoleonic wars had blinded Britain to the achievements of her philosophers, while "her scientific institutions had been discouraged and even abolished". There is more than an echo of that cry from many quarters here this week.

Sunbathers warned of rise in fatal skin cancer

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FATAL form of skin cancer caused by over-exposure to sunlight is increasing rapidly in Britain, and damage to the ozone layer might lead to a further big increase in the number of victims, a leading dermatologist said yesterday.

About 3,500 cases of malignant melanoma and some 800 deaths a year from the disease are now being recorded in Britain, an 80 per cent increase on the rates of ten years ago, Rona MacKie, professor of dermatology at Glasgow university, said.

The condition is increasing more quickly than any other malignancy, apart from lung cancer, and is affecting more young people than before, including women in their twenties and thirties. Women are twice as likely as men to contract the disease, presumably because of their liking for sunbathing, Professor MacKie said.

Short periods of intensive sun exposure are a key factor in the development of the disease. "This is exactly the type of sun exposure encountered on a Mediterranean holiday by an individual who has normally an indoor job and a 'weekend warrior' skin," Professor MacKie said. The risks were not confined to foreign holidays, however. "In the sort of heatwave we have had recently, the back garden can be as dangerous as the beach in Majorca."

The rise of skin cancer in Britain is part of a worldwide trend. Half the population of Australia has a mild form of the disease by the age of 40, and in America, 30 per cent of all malignancies are cancers of the skin. An estimated 27,000 new cases of malignant melanoma and 6,000 deaths from it

occurred in America last year. The less serious forms of the disease, squamous cell carcinoma, and basal cell carcinoma, are also increasing rapidly, but can be cured by early treatment, including simple surgery. Malignant melanoma, however, is incurable once established.

Professor MacKie said that so far there was no evidence to link the depletion of the ozone with the rise in all three forms. "What is extremely worrying is the possibility that if the ozone layer continues to be damaged and allows an ever-greater proportion of ultraviolet radiation from the sun to reach the Earth's surface, the already predicted increase in skin cancer will accelerate and the numbers affected will rise even more sharply."

The impact was difficult to forecast, but experts had calculated that a 10 per cent depletion in the ozone layer would result in a 20 per cent increase in malignant melanoma, and bigger rises in less serious types of skin cancer. "In fact, it is highly likely that the loss of ozone will be more than 10 per cent," Professor MacKie said.

"It was vital to set up a network of ozone monitoring stations to record levels over densely populated regions. This should be supported by a similar network to measure the ultraviolet radiation reaching the Earth's surface."

Those most at risk are fair-skinned, fair-haired or red-haired people with blue eyes, who do not tan easily and who readily get sunburn. Individuals with a large number of moles and a tendency to freckle, are also vulnerable.

Leading article, page 11

Salmonella bacteria 'may be a lifesaver'

SALMONELLA, the bane of the food industry and scourge of the health department, has emerged as a potential lifesaver (Thomson Prentice writes).

Scientists have discovered that the bacterium seems to be a perfect vehicle for new vaccines against such diseases as malaria, typhoid and possibly AIDS, although the work is still at an early stage. Researchers at Cambridge University and at the Wellcome pharmaceutical company, together with doctors in the United States, have produced experimental versions of some of the vaccines, now being tested.

More than 2,000 different types of salmonella exist, causing a wide range of diseases. The bacteria have been used for some time in vaccines against typhoid fever and salmonellosis in animals.

The new compounds consist of live but harmless salmonella bacteria and genetically engineered extracts from other infectious organisms. The combination appears to be highly efficient in giving protection against specific diseases, Carlos Hormaeche, one of the researchers, said yesterday.

Dr Hormaeche, of the microbiology and parasitology unit at Cambridge University, said: "We are very excited. This is a totally unexpected spin-off from our main work." Dr Hormaeche said that he and Gordon Dougan, a Wellcome scientist carrying out much of the work, believed the new vaccines had enormous potential.

The value of the new approach was that the experimental vaccines could induce immunity in human cells, which could then kill the infecting organisms, he said. Tests have so far shown the vaccines to be effective against typhoid, influenza and malaria. The objective is to produce oral vaccines, which would be cheaper and safer than injectable versions.



Water babies: Jenny Heath, aged eight, and James Lloyd-Jones, aged seven, taking part in Science 90s' water detectives scheme yesterday. The children were monitoring pollution and aqueous life in a stream near Swansea University

Pollution damage to trees doubted

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A SURVEY of the health of trees across Britain shows no evidence that they are being damaged by air pollution outside industrial areas, John Innes of the Forestry Commission told the association yesterday.

The survey, involving 350 plots containing more than 3,400 trees that are visited annually by forest surveyors, was prompted by fears that widespread air pollution threatened forests. Deterioration of West German forests has been attributed to acid rain and similar damage has been detected in many parts of continental Europe.

Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Scots pine, oak and beech were examined in the survey. Density of the tree's crown is used to assess its health. Many British trees have thin crowns, but there was no evidence in the three years of the survey that their condition worsened, or that thin crowns are the result of pollution rather than rainfall or the lack of it, frost and insect attack.

Of the species examined, no clear trend was observed for four, while beech have improved each year. Crown condition varies so much from year to year that surveys will have to be conducted for many years before a clear trend can be discerned. Direct comparisons are impossible

between British figures and other countries, as assessment methods vary. It is not known if British trees have always suffered from thinning on top. The commission also examines needle or leaf discoloration, changes in the shape of the crown or the branches, dieback of branches, and evidence of flowering or cone production. These data were collected for the first time last year, so there is not yet any basis for comparison.

When the survey results are mapped and compared with maps of patterns of air pollution, no clear correlations emerge. Oak, beech and Scots pine are healthiest in the south and east, where air pollution is highest. The commission's results were supported by further experiments reported yesterday by Andrew McLeod of the National Power technology and environmental centre at Leatherhead in Surrey. Using fumigation pipes, plants have been subjected to measured levels of sulphur dioxide and ozone, two pollutants, and compared with plants growing in clean air.

Results over the past ten years show that unless pollution is increased well above that common in urban areas, plants are undamaged and the yield may be improved if the presence of the sulphur dioxide kills off infecting fungi.

Stress lingered for Lockerbie police

POLICE officers involved in the aftermath of the Lockerbie disaster were unprepared for the experience and many suffered both psychologically and physically, the British Association was told yesterday (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Margaret Mitchell, of the Department of Psychology at the University of Glasgow, said that new cases of post-traumatic stress syndrome were still appearing among

police, ambulance and fire officers involved in clearing up after the bombing.

The effects of the disaster were shown in greatly increased sickness leave among police officers. Short-term absences increased by 60 per cent, and long-term absences by 22 per cent. Some officers could not come to terms with the disaster, even for some time afterwards. One video-recorded every television news item or documentary about Lockerbie and played them repeatedly in an attempt to wring some meaning from the awful event.

Miss Mitchell said that those involved in disasters need to try to explain the traumatic events to themselves, and can be helped greatly by debriefing after the event by senior officers. To avoid psychological ill-health, she recommended two procedures: the regular dissemination of information during the operation, and extensive debriefing.

One particular difficulty for police officers was that they were accustomed to being able to use their own initiative, but in the Lockerbie operation they were unable to. This contributed to a feeling of loss of control combined with the horror of the disaster to cause psychological disturbance.

Fat, smoky old Uncle Norman, testament to bad living

UNCLE Norman, aged 94, polished off the last of his fried egg, bacon, sausage and chips, lit his 60th cigarette of the day, and thumbed his nose at health education yesterday (Thomson Prentice writes).

Fat and florid, fond of beer and allergic to exercise, Uncle Norman was produced as an example of how the stereotyped candidate for heart disease, as viewed by the medical establishment, can be contradicted in real life.

According to Charlie Davison, a Bristol university researcher, health educators are guilty of a form of worthy dishonesty, especially in the field of heart disease prevention. "The broadcasting of propaganda based on half-truth, simplification and distortion is a legitimate use of public funds, so long as the goal is the good of the community," Dr Davison, research fellow in medical anthropology, said. The

educators took the view that individuals could not or would not change their habits unless they were encouraged to expect a reward. Such approaches ran the risk of producing mass scepticism, he said. "Health education in Britain has never come to terms with the complex relationship between the individual and the collective in the field of health and illness."

Dr Davison has conducted a survey of public perceptions of health, illness and the avoidance of heart disease. The results suggest that while much health education advice on fatty foods, smoking, obesity and exercise is heeded, many people regard luck, fate and destiny as equally relevant.

Dr Davison summed this up in a paper, presented to the association, entitled "Uncle Norman and the last person." The public recognise cases of people who should be candidates for heart disease, but live to a healthy old age, as in "my Uncle

Norman smoked 80 a day and lived till 94," Dr Davison said. Similarly, heart victims who seem to be the very opposite of the classic candidate often have heart attacks, as in "he was the last person you'd expect to have a coronary."

Dr Davison said that it had become common currency that many deaths attributed to heart disease were preventable. "The core of the notion is that in many cases, damage to the circulatory system is caused by identifiable behaviours which theoretically could be modified or eliminated. Turning this theory into practice has been the task of a plethora of public and private bodies whose activities have encompassed fund-raising, research, political and professional lobbying, and direct public education."

Dr Davison questioned their success and doubted the value of an approach which tried to instill the idea that heart disease is

strongly linked to behaviours and conditions which could be changed by the triumph of self-control over self-indulgence. The strong implication was that much heart disease was attributable either to ignorance or to a lack of self-discipline. This led to the widespread belief among the health-conscious that many heart disease sufferers brought it upon themselves.

"However, it should be noted that the sudden heart stoppage is something of a preferred form of death. Dropping dead from a heart attack is widely seen as a quick, natural and relatively painless death, in comparison with cancers, respiratory disorders and traumatic accidents, and many profess to desire that end, given the choice," Dr Davison said. "We have even detected evidence of a jocular attitude among some men in the mornsthrusting end of the business community that sees a

heart attack as something of a status symbol and proof that success has been earned by hard work."

The health education approach that certain types of individuals are heart disease candidates was undermined by the survey results showing that almost any type of person could be a candidate. "There are risks attached to the lives of rich, high-flying executives and to those of impecunious manual labourers. A sedentary life is seen as risky, but so is a life of over-strenuous exercise."

A strong element of the public image of heart disease, and of the sudden fatal heart attack in particular, is that it is a random killer," Dr Davison said. "Even though most of our informants have professed the opinion that heart disease is to some extent preventable or postponable, the idea that it could happen to anyone, at any time, is omnipresent."

Civic pride contrasts with local gloom in a tale of two towns

A city once dubbed the Queen of the Midlands and a small port in the North-East represent the best and the worst in British urban life if a magazine survey is to be believed. Lin Jenkins visited Nottingham and Peter Davenport went to Blyth to discover how they differed.



Nottingham's links with the Robin Hood legend help to boost tourism

ARCHERY sets were selling faster than the flight of Robin Hood's arrows yesterday at the tourist centre that celebrates the city's most famous lawbreaker.

Paul Morris, aged seven, hovered briefly over a stack of sword and shield sets before plunging for the bows and arrows. Like scores of other youngsters he had just visited the Robin Hood "living experience" and was well versed in his home city's medieval traditions.

Judging by Nottingham's top position in a survey to find the best cities to live in conducted for *Moneywise* magazine, it could be expected that outlaws stealing from the rich would no longer be a big problem.

Nottingham, though, polled at seventeenth in terms of crime in the survey of 63 cities. Det Chief Supt John Hopley, head of Nottingham CID, was a little dubious as to whether peo

ple's perceptions bore much relation to the statistics he provides for the Home Office. "As many people know we actually have a high incidence of crime in the city."

Civic dignitaries were, however, more enthusiastic and less surprised at the result. Chris Gibson, the Lord Mayor, said: "Coming out as the best place to live is great news, but it only confirms what people in the city have known for a long time." Although founded on industry and technical achievement, Nottingham was established as the first garden city in the 18th century around the lace industry, earning the nickname Queen of the Midlands.

The city has extensive parkland and modern redevelopment has been sympathetic to its past.

"It's a lovely city," said Paul's mother Caroline Morris. "There are so many things to do and we have

none of the difficulties of other cities with drugs, high unemployment and people on the streets. But it's the people who really make it, they are so friendly."

Peter Smithers, an insurance broker aged 28, has a more light hearted explanation. "It's all the women," he explained. "They outnumber men by three to two so there are plenty to choose from, but on a more serious level they probably help make it a nicer more friendly and safer city than many others."

Nottingham earned its top place in a survey which took into account the cost of living based on the cost of meat, swimming pool entrance fees, a gallon of petrol, all-day car parking charges, rents and the cost of a one-mile taxi journey. Also calculated were rankings on litter, health care, crime, housing and education.

Bob White, the tourism officer, though, puts the city's success down to its unique



Blyth spirits: visitors to the market were nonplussed at the town's poor showing character. "Unlike other cities we have a very strong identity. People who live here are proud of it and they work hard to ensure it's great for others."

In Blyth in Northumberland yesterday there were plenty of bargains among the stalls in the market square. Civic pride, however, was a commodity that was harder to find.

While the survey had put the port at the bottom of the list, anyone expecting an outpouring of local indignation would have been disappointed. In an admittedly unscientific sample of six residents shopping in the morning sunshine, no one could be found with a good word to say for the town.

Carl Wilson, aged 38, has been driving his taxi around the town for seven years. "I work here but I wouldn't live here. It's just got nothing going for it," Annette Claxton, aged 38, who was shopping with her two young daughters, said she was not surprised at Blyth's lowly ranking.

"There is vandalism and litter everywhere you walk and there are shops with their windows broken."

Blyth has a population of 35,000. Once a centre for coalmining and shipbuilding its last pit closed five years ago and there have been no shipyards for over 20 years. Council officials yesterday condemned the survey as "frivolous" and were anxious to point out that Blyth was a town in transition, moving from an old, heavy industrial centre to a modern

community based on towards a diverse economy which includes engineering, electronics, pharmaceuticals and clothing. Burberry's employs 700 at its manufacturing plant on the local Kitty Brewster industrial estate.

Unemployment is down to less than 10 per cent although the figure masks problem areas where it remains worryingly higher.

A £10 million shopping centre is under construction and there are plans to redevelop the derelict quayside. The port remains busy exporting coal and importing paper.

Michael Dungworth, leader of the Labour council said the survey was grossly unfair in its findings and in the way it was assembled. "What did they do — interview 12 people on a wet Sunday in the middle of Blyth? I have every confidence that it is a good place to live and work."

Perhaps the person with the least enviable job yesterday was Heather Latimer who is Blyth Valley's public relations officer. At least, she said, the survey had put the town on the map.



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Enquiry into crime squad 'not blocked by police'

By CRAIG SETON

THE Police Complaints Authority yesterday ruled out the possibility that former members of the West Midlands serious crime squad had obstructed the investigation into claims that officers of the elite unit had fabricated evidence. But the authorities admitted that one year after the £1 million enquiry began six important files and seven police pocket-books were still missing.

It also revealed that documents were believed to be missing from the headquarters of the squad at a Birmingham police station. This had not been secured on behalf of the investigation team until several days after Mr Geoffrey Dear, the former West Midlands chief constable, disbanded the unit last August and ordered an urgent investigation into its affairs.

Roland Moyle, the authority's deputy chairman, said at a Birmingham press conference yesterday that the missing papers, including documents from files that had been recovered, were bound to hamper the progress of the investigation by Donald Shaw, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, which the authority is supervising.

Mr Moyle confirmed that so far no former members of the squad had been suspended and no prosecutions had been launched. He said that several detectives against whom allegations had been made had not been interviewed by the enquiry team because they were on sick leave as a result of stress.

The authority also confirmed that most allegations against the squad involved less than ten of a hard-core of its former officers.

Mr Moyle said: "We are not in a position to say that our enquiry has been deliberately frustrated. There is no evi-

dence of any mass attempt to frustrate the investigation by removing files. Officers going on sick leave is part of the normal experience of an investigation and there is no evidence at all of anybody 'swinging the lead' in order to avoid the consequences of their actions."

The serious crime squad was disbanded by Mr Dear after the collapse of several important criminal trials following allegations that detectives had fabricated statements by suspects. Mr Dear, now inspector of constabulary for the Midlands, called in Mr Shaw to investigate the squad's activities between 1986 and 1989 during which time his officers made 754 arrests. Evidence in those cases is now being reexamined.

Since the enquiry began 85 people, 37 of them in prison, have made formal complaints against the squad. Fifty-six detectives who belonged to the unit have now had more than 530 individual allegations made against them. Of the 669 crime squad files that are being investigated, 663 have been recovered. The six that are still missing contain prosecution papers in criminal cases and include custody records and original police interview notes. Three of the files relate to current complaints against squad members.

Jeff Crawford, the Police Complaints Authority officer in day to day supervision of the West Yorkshire investigation, said yesterday that

two reports had been completed and one was with the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The enquiry is expected to be completed by the end of this year or early next year when reports will be submitted to the DPP for a decision.

Debut today for Escort successor

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FORD unveils its most important weapon in the fight to win back sales today with the launch of a successor to the Escort.

The Escort, and the Orion saloon version, are vital to Ford's ability to remain Britain's largest car manufacturer at a time when the company has been selling cars at big discounts to lure customers in a declining market. The car is also essential to the company's British manufacturing base, because Ford has transferred production of the Sierra mid-range model from Dagenham, Essex, to Belgium.

More than £600 million has been invested at Halewood, Merseyside, as a main source for the Escort and Orion, which account for 41 per cent of Ford sales in Britain. The 9,000 workforce will be making 1,200 cars a day at peak.



This year's model: the Escort LX, one of the cars in Ford's new range aimed at the "compact" market

Conservation 'is its own worst enemy'

By RUTH GLEDHILL

CONSERVATION has been its own worst enemy for the past six decades, an international animal welfare and environment conference was told yesterday.

Ian Swingland, director of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, said that in the name of conservation people have been separated from resources deemed important by governments, international organisations and experts. Dr Swingland said that had stimulated the destruction of the environment, animals and species. It had also led to an increase in poaching, pet dealing and mineral extraction and the degradation of planners and the leisure industry.

"When people design a national park, particularly in the tropics, it has been a characteristic that they chuck local people out. Then they are surprised when poaching begins and the whole thing starts falling apart. Unless we bring people back in, and give back

to them what has been taken away, we will never be successful in conservation."

The three-day conference at Oxford, organised by the RSPCA, is designed to bring experts on animal welfare and the environment together under one roof. Dr Swingland said: "They have been divorced for far too long, yet the information we need in order to present our arguments is identical."

Joan Felthouse, chairman of the RSPCA council, said that some people in the animal welfare movement regarded environmentalists as grand strategists, while some environmentalists still used terms such as "bunny huggers" for those in the animal welfare world.

The most radical suggestion at the conference came from Richard Ryder, vice-chairman of the RSPCA council, who called for a "green army" to be mobilised in peacetime to create an "environmental commando force".



Maqbool Fida Husain sketching at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, yesterday for a painting in aid of its Nehru Gallery Appeal

Painting to raise funds for gallery

By RAY CLANCY

ONE of India's most popular contemporary artists is working at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London on a painting to raise funds for its £2.2 million Nehru Gallery appeal.

Maqbool Fida Husain, aged 75, who is known for turning up at parties unexpectedly, forgetting appointments and walking barefooted into five-star hotels, is on a short visit to Britain and yesterday was at the museum making sketches for his painting.

A striking Bohemian figure, with white hair and beard, he began his career as a cinema hoarding painter, but now his work is shown at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Tate Gallery, London.

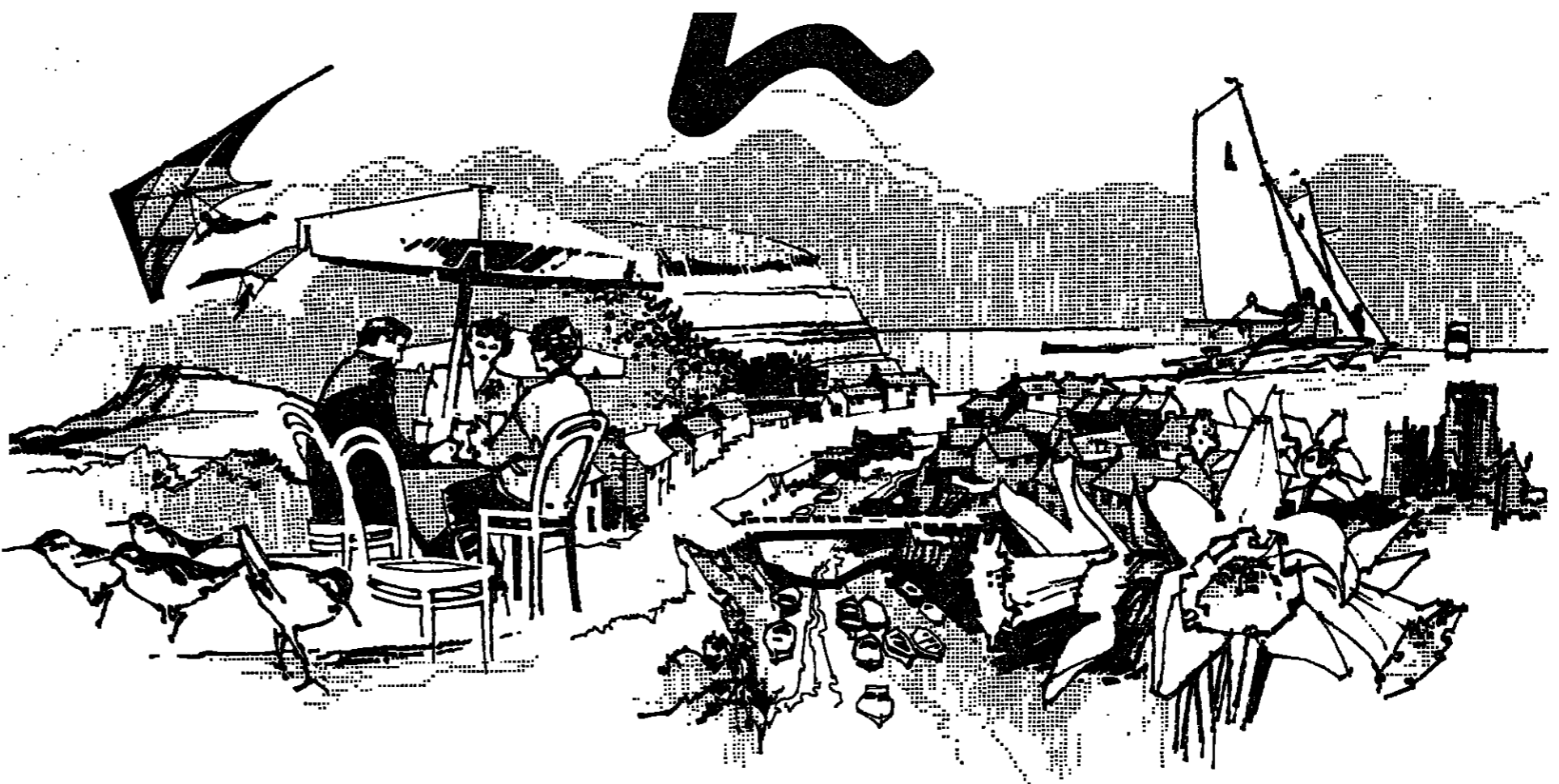
Wearing traditional Indian robes, he spent the day sketching in the museum's plaster cast court, which houses many beautiful statues dating from the 1860s to the 1930s.

Prints will be taken from the painting that he produces and will be sold in aid of the gallery, which will house a permanent exhibition of the museum's Indian collection and initiate an educational programme.

The gallery, named after Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian statesman, is to be opened by the Queen in November.

TEES/SIDE

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A recent national survey of the quality of life in 38 of Britain's urban areas ranked Teesside ninth. London was 34th. What placed Teesside so high? Chiefly, reasonable cost of living, high quality reasonably priced housing, good shopping and leisure facilities, and excellent access to fine scenery. But Teesside scored right across the lifestyle spectrum - particularly when compared with the South East. Teesside's weekly shopping basket is the sixth cheapest in the land. Teesside's nursery school provision is twice the national average, its 'O' Level attainment above the national figure with excellent choice of State and private schools, the further education facilities

within its reach extensive and wide ranging. Public expenditure on health is higher; hospital waiting lists shorter. And the magnificent scenery? The 36 miles of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Heritage Coast, the 550 square miles of the the North York Moors National Park, the 680 square miles of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the upper reaches of the River Tees with its spectacular waterfalls. Teesside - the sum of its parts puts it in the Top Ten. To find out more contact Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Teesside Development Corporation, Tees House, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS2 1RE. Tel 0642 230636. Fax 0642 230843.



TEES/SIDE
Initiative Talent Ability

Use of hotel rooms for homeless can be cut, councils told

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

IF LOCAL authorities managed their housing better the number of temporary rooms, properties and bed and breakfast hotels used to help the homeless could be cut, according to a report out today.

It says the use of bed and breakfast properties to shelter the homeless is unacceptably high and rebukes some councils for being too slow in allocating tenants to properties let by housing associations. It also wants more information on empty government properties to establish if they could be made available to local authorities to house the homeless, of which there were estimated to be more than 300,000 in England last year.

The National Audit Office report says that between 1982 and last year the number of families put in temporary rooms or property increased fourfold, but many of them were sheltered in "unsatisfactory and expensive" bed and breakfast hotels. Paying for bed and breakfast accommodation cost an estimated £143 million in 1987 to 1988, and the report says that bed and breakfast charges in-

creased by 245 per cent between 1984 and 1987, ten times greater than the rise in the retail price index. However, only 10 per cent of local authorities use bed and breakfast hotels extensively to help the homeless.

"The use of bed and breakfast properties has been widely condemned on the grounds that they usually offer the lowest standards at the highest costs", it adds.

The report by John Bourn, the comptroller and auditor general, says that a government attempt to tackle homelessness and cut down on the use of bed and breakfast hotels by providing 15,000 extra lettings would not be successful unless additional funds were provided. It says the government should spend money on the worst affected areas, calls on local authorities to manage their existing housing stock better and urges better links between housing associations and councils.

The report adds that the extent of homelessness in England is difficult to establish as there are no reliable estimates of the number of

people sleeping rough on the streets of London and other large cities. The report says that the reasons why people become homeless have changed little in recent years.

The environment department recognises that figures produced by local authorities in April last year showing there were 14,900 public sector residential properties lying empty in their areas were an underestimate.

Treasury figures showed that during this year and last 35,100 residential properties, including 16,500 belonging to local health authorities, were lying empty. Although some were vacant for operational reasons and others have been acquired for demolition, the report says lack of information makes it difficult to work out to what extent empty government property could be made available for the homeless.

"Clearly not all empty government property would be suitable for housing the homeless because of security and location," it adds.

Homelessness: Report by the comptroller and auditor general, National Audit Office (Stationery Office £6 10)



Crime watch: PC Nick Walker takes to two wheels on one of Leighton Buzzard police station's mountain bikes

PCs' bikes catch up with the criminal

By ROBIN YOUNG

ONE of the first police patrols to use modern mountain bicycles has been established in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. The patrol has already proved its worth after an officer riding one of the sturdy bicycles arrested three young men trying to steal a car.

The introduction of the two mountain bicycles, provided by Cycles Peugeot, was the idea of PC Nick Walker. He submitted a report urging their use, not knowing that they had been adopted elsewhere. He has since learnt that the bikes were so successful in Seattle, in America, that people waited in cars with CB radios outside police stations to broadcast warnings to the criminal fraternity when the bicycles went on patrol.

The Bedfordshire arrests were made on the first night of the bicycle patrol. "A foot officer would not have been fast enough to catch them, and if they had heard a police car coming they would have gone into hiding," PC Walker said.

"The bikes have the advantages of being quiet but fast," he added. "The bikes help us cover the watch more quickly and efficiently, and make it seem there are more police about. They can play a major part in cutting crime."

Move to drop poll tax for prisoners

By QUENTIN COWERY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRISONERS would be exempt from paying poll tax under government proposals aimed at closing a loophole which allowed some councils to charge inmates whose homes were unoccupied.

Ministers had always intended that prisoners should pay nothing, just about 50 local authorities, in an attempt to boost community charge income, have treated single prisoners, housed in second properties, Westminster and Haringey councils in London even proposed charging such prisoners at double the normal rate.

It emerged yesterday that the government, as part of its first review of the implementation of the poll tax, told councils that prisoners should be exempt from the charge. Statutory regulations enshrining the principle will be passed later this year.

Last November, after strong protests from penal reformers and prisoner rights groups, the government gave councils discretion to waive the standard charge in respect of prisoners who left their homes unoccupied on entering jail. But several authorities decided not to do so.

The government's latest move was welcomed yesterday by penal reformers who described it as a victory for common sense. Paul Cavatino, senior press officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of

Offenders, said: "Ministers have accepted that prisoners should be exempted for the simple and obvious reason that such people have no income and are therefore in no position to pay the charge."

"Without this change many inmates would have fallen into serious debts which, on their release, would have increased the likelihood of them re-offending."

The association says that "scores" of prisoners had faced poll tax charges, with some inmates affected in all 120 prisons in England and Wales. Both unconvicted and sentenced inmates would have been liable to the tax.

Stephen Shaw, director of the Prisoners' Trust, said many single prisoners would have lost their homes had councils been allowed to treat them as second properties.

Mr Shaw was relieved yesterday in the High Court yesterday on the challenge by Chris Patten, environment secretary, to Haringey council's decision to set a new poll tax charge of £536 instead of a capped £268. The judges hope to give their ruling on Friday.

Mr Patten wants the court to quash as unlawful the north London council's decision to reset the charge. The Labour-controlled authority says it is necessary because of a lower collection rate than expected.

Haringey originally set a charge of £572 per head, the highest in Britain.



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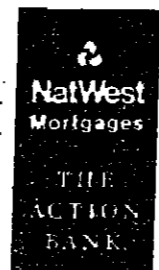
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India plays down artillery duel risk on Kashmir border

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA claimed yesterday that artillery battles with Pakistani troops were continuing across the Kashmir border for the third consecutive day. V. P. Singh, the prime minister, said Pakistan was shelling border posts and India was responding with "appropriate fire".

He told parliament that fighting was now confined to one area of the meandering border, most of which cuts through mountains and forests. Islamabad and Delhi were in direct contact and there was no cause for "undue concern". India was fully capable of dealing with any eventuality.

Mr Singh, although expressing worry about the heavy fighting, that supposedly took place on Monday, sought to play down the significance of the exchanges. "We trust that these localised incidents will be contained and the situation

defused," he said. Mr Singh claimed that, during an earlier artillery clash, on August 12, India had demolished 12 Pakistani "structures" 300 yards from the border and had beaten back Pakistani troops. The action had conveyed the message to Pakistani forces that "they cannot take us by surprise" and that no foreigner could set foot on Indian soil.

The mood in India is far less belligerent over Kashmir than it is in Pakistan, where the military-backed caretaker government is under pressure to adopt hardline policies. Mr Singh, by contrast, has fended off recent political challenges and is able to resist playing the Kashmir card.

The opposite is true in Pakistan. Since Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister, was toppled on August 6 the armed forces have assumed complete control of Kashmir

policy, without political restraint. There no longer appears to be any inclination to negotiate a mutual withdrawal of forces from the border, although Pakistan denies Indian claims that it is building up troop strengths.

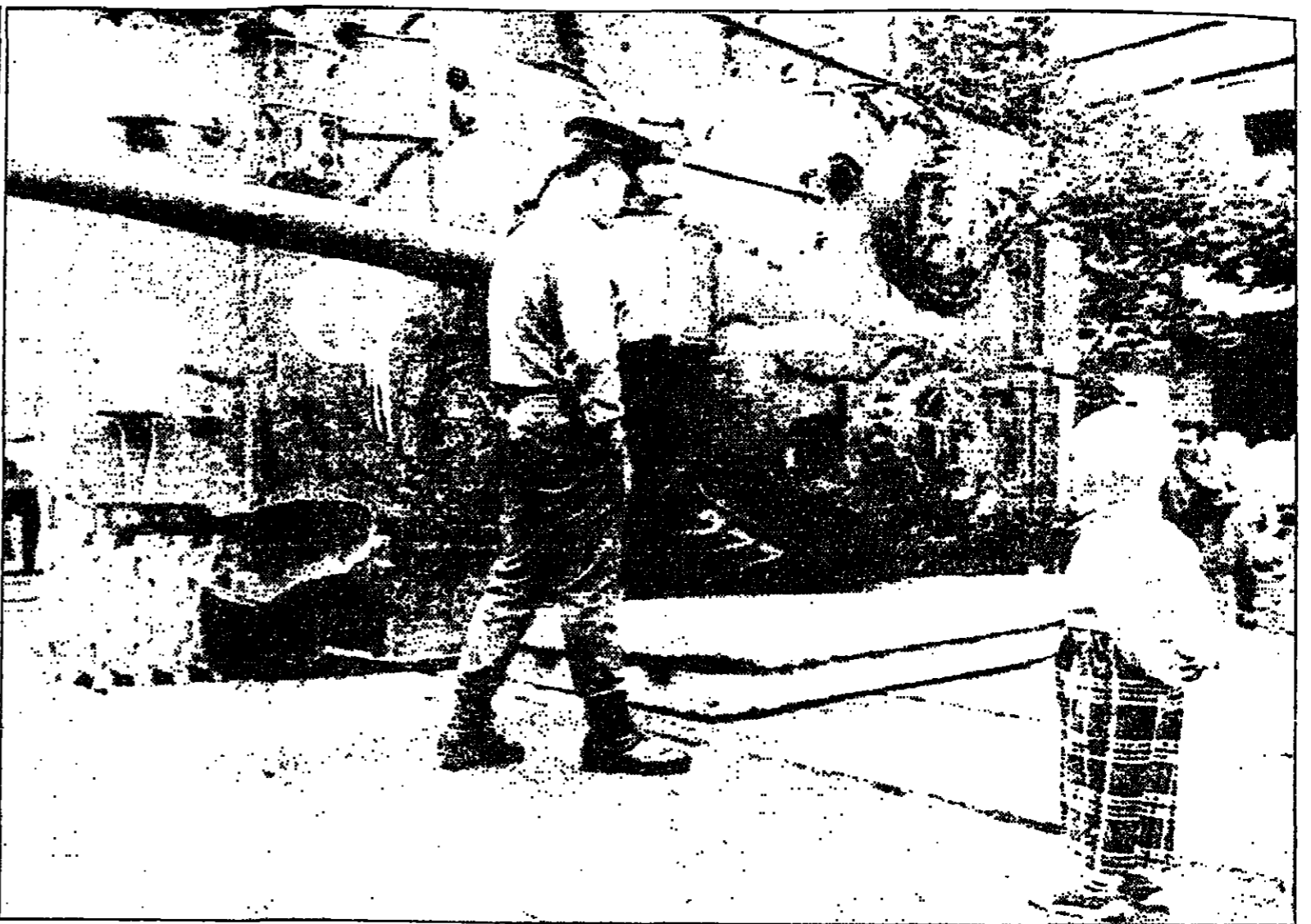
The government of the semi-autonomous region of "Azad" (free) Kashmir is also raising the political heat over Kashmir. It is headed by Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's party, making it the party's only important political base left intact. Because of its semi-independent status it survived pressure from the newly installed Islamabad government to dissolve itself and appoint an acting government pending fresh elections. All four Pakistani provinces are run by caretaker governments, with fresh elections due a few days after the National Assembly poll.

Mumtaz Rathore, elected in the early summer as prime minister of Azad Kashmir, is a longtime Bhutto loyalist who spent more than two years in jail during General Zia's military rule. He is now an important focus for the People's party's attempt at an electoral comeback. Since Miss Bhutto's dismissal he has proposed increasingly aggressive policies over Kashmir.

He advocates compulsory military training for all Kashmiri males, as well as for Indian Kashmiris living in refugee camps. He announced the formation of a Kashmiri national bank and said all other banks should leave. He is sending representatives to the United Nations to claim that his government is the only legitimate administration in Pakistani Kashmir. And he is writing to all heads of Commonwealth governments to seek political support.

His demands are designed to steal the political initiative and score political points for the People's party. Now Miss Bhutto is out of government she, too, can afford to sound much more belligerent, elevating Kashmir in importance in the election campaign and heightening cross-border tensions with India.

● **KARACHI:** Pakistan has denied that 11 hijackers of the Soviet DUBAI passenger plane, who surrendered here on Monday, were being extradited to the Soviet Union (Zahid Hussain writes). The hijackers, aged between 18 and 22, are being held by the Pakistan army.



A Czechoslovak child studies a T-55 tank overturned in Prague yesterday to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Warsaw Pact invasion that crushed the "Prague Spring" of 1968. The Soviet-made tank - donated by the Czechoslovak army - bears the logos of Solidarity, the trade union movement that spearheaded democratisation in Poland, and Civic Forum, President Havel's political movement that guided Czechoslovakia's peaceful democratic

revolution late last year (AP reports from Prague). The tank will be left on the street until September 6. This is the first time Czechoslovakia has been able openly to commemorate the anniversary of the uprising without fear of police retaliation. On Monday, the eve of the invasion anniversary, Alexander Dubcek, the architect of the short-lived 1968 reforms, hailed the new reality of a

free Czechoslovakia. "Truth has prevailed," the former Communist leader told state television. "The Sword of Damocles is not hanging over us any more." Mr Dubcek is now the Speaker of Czechoslovakia's first non-Communist parliament in 42 years. Just one year ago, helmeted riot police waded into thousands of protesters commemorating the Soviet-led invasion and those who had fought it. The

demonstrators last year had been calling for democracy and the withdrawal of Soviet troops who stayed in Czechoslovakia after the 1968 invasion. Less than three months later even larger protests led to the resignation of Czechoslovakia's Communist government. Yesterday members of the "Jester Society" student group planned to swarm through Prague in a mock invasion.

Troops poised to halt Liberia war

FROM REUTER IN FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

TROOPS of a 3,000-strong West African peacekeeping force boarded warships in Sierra Leone yesterday with orders to halt the eight-month civil war in neighbouring Liberia.

The soldiers from Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia planned to sail to the capital Monrovia later in the day, normally a voyage of about 24 hours.

Thousands of civilians have been killed in Liberia, in largely tribal fighting between President Doe's soldiers and two rebel groups, which are also fighting each other.

American helicopters, operating from warships offshore, evacuated 825 foreigners - including an Iraqi - from Monrovia at the weekend. Over the past two weeks they have evacuated nearly 1,500 foreigners.

The city's harbour is controlled by a small rebel group led by Prince Johnson, who favours foreign intervention in the conflict.

Diplomats said the loading of equipment in Freetown began on Monday afternoon and continued through the night. The peacekeeping force, formed under the auspices of

the Economic Community of West African states, has been waiting for nearly two weeks to move into Liberia and impose a ceasefire.

President Doe, holed up with several hundred troops at his Executive Mansion in Monrovia, and Mr Johnson have accepted the intervention. But the rebel group of Charles Taylor, which controls most of Liberia, vehemently opposes any external interference.

Diplomats said there was now a serious risk that the peacekeeping force would end up fighting pitched battles against Mr Taylor's soldiers.

● **PAYNESVILLE:** Mr Taylor yesterday dismissed West African peace moves as a plot to thwart him. He also claimed that Mr Johnson was dead and was being impersonated.

He said Mr Johnson had been killed in an ambush and his body taken to a hospital in Monrovia. Western journalists who saw the body could not identify it because of a facial wound. Mr Taylor's group announced Mr Johnson's death last week, but he later appeared in public to deny it. (APF)



Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, and the South African foreign minister, R. F. "Pik" Botha, after meeting to discuss black violence yesterday. The two men, and Adrian Vlok, the law and order minister, appealed to political leaders to strive for peace. Chief Buthelezi repeated his call for talks with Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president.

Serbs protest after rumour of Croat censure for police

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SEVERAL thousand angry Serbs took to the streets of Knin in Dalmatia yesterday, threatening to take up arms again after rumours spread that three local policemen who sided with the Serbian insurgents during the turmoil in the town last week were to be suspended by the Croatian authorities.

The crowd dispersed after the chief of the local police, himself a Serb, assured them that the authorities in Zagreb, the capital of the Yugoslav republic, had pledged not to take disciplinary action.

In an atmosphere where rumours abound and where the Serbian newspapers are

doing their utmost to stoke up the tension with stories of threats against the Serbs, the population is ready to believe that anything the Croatian authorities say is part of a campaign of psychological warfare against Serbia and its leader, Slobodan Milosevic.

Franjo Tudjman, the president of Croatia, has convened an extraordinary parliamentary session tomorrow. He is under pressure from radicals in his right-wing party to outlaw the Serbian Democratic Party, whose extreme elements are said to have engineered the insurrection in Croatia which threatened to spark civil war in Yugoslavia.

The deadline to hand back weapons stolen or distributed by local policemen has expired but armed Serbs are still roaming the countryside. Reports from neighbouring villages speak of Croatian inhabitants demanding arms in self-defence. Divisions between the Serbs and the Croats now extend to work places as well as public transport. Croatian buses refuse to stop in Serbian villages or carry Serbian passengers and vice versa.

Police in the Knin region remain adamant in refusing to wear the new uniforms

ordered by Croatia's non-Communist government. The old communist emblems, red flags and red stars, have been discarded and the new uniform carries the red chessboard, the traditional Croatian national emblem. The Serbs claim that the new uniforms has associations with the wartime fascist regime.

Moscow police claim rare victory in crime wave

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE much-maligned Moscow police force claimed a rare success yesterday with the arrest of a man who terrorised young women and is believed guilty of 13 rapes and three murders.

The man's partner and her mentally ill daughter were said to have taken part in torturing the women. The Armenian man, identified only by his assumed name of Stanislav Nikolaevich Chaplygin, ensnared his young victims, who were often fresh from the country, in central Moscow in broad daylight. A lurid account of Chaplygin's crimes, headed "Cruel tales", covered most of the back page of the trade union paper, *Trud*, yesterday.

Chaplygin, aged 36, has a history of

indecent assault, and allegedly turned to rape and murder two years ago after taking up with a woman and her mentally ill daughter.

According to *Trud*, Chaplygin frequented central Moscow, on Red Square, or the main children's shop, Children's World. He would introduce himself to young girls as an executive of the Moscow state film company, Mosfilm, and say his victim was ideal for a starring role in a film he was about to make. He would offer foreign travel, "of course, much of the film will be shot in Paris", the Soviet high life. "The film is about young Soviet diplomats", and, above all, fame.

The victim would be invited back to his home to discuss the contract. Her drink would be drugged, and she would come round on a train miles from Moscow, half-dressed and

suffering a hangover. Those were the lucky ones. The unlucky ones were strangled or knifed and dumped on a waste ground.

According to the police, the rapist spiked his victims' drinks with drugs which his partner obtained illegally from the mental hospital where her daughter was treated. Both mother and daughter were said to have taken part in torturing and disfiguring the girls, and helped to shield the rapist.

Revealing something of the public distrust of the police in the capital, *Trud* said that when the police finally tracked down Chaplygin to a central block of flats, other residents refused to co-operate.

The prominence given by the Soviet press to Chaplygin's arrest may be intended to help raise the morale of the Moscow police. Two weeks ago the force lost a gang of three

dangerous criminals on the way from court to the high-security prison. The police are thought not to be coping with an upsurge in violent crime.

The report on the case may also be an officially sponsored attempt to persuade the Soviet public, scared that the law and order situation is out of control, that criminals do get caught.

The main message, however, was addressed to potential victims of similar crimes, the desperate young escapers from provincial life, looking for wealth and stardom in the big city. "We might have kept silent," said the paper, "were it not for the tens of thousands of very young girls who harbour the naive, half-childish faith in a miracle and are ready to throw themselves at a beautiful fairytale at once. Don't be in too much of a hurry," it warned.

Dictator's son pleads ill health at trial

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SIBIU

NICU Ceausescu, the youngest son of Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania's deposed Communist dictator, yesterday demanded the military court trying him that the case be suspended and he be freed because of his failing health.

"I'm asking to be freed because of my bad health state," Mr Ceausescu told the five-judge panel. "The trial should be suspended but investigations should continue."

Mr Ceausescu, aged 40, who was leader of the former Communist Youth League until 1987, when he became party secretary in Sibiu, 160 miles northwest of Bucharest, is reportedly suffering of cirrhosis of the liver. He has spent most of his time in detention at the Aiud prison's infirmary in western Romania, recovering from a stab wound inflicted on December 22, the day he was captured and his father overthrown.

The court asked forensic experts to provide a "concrete conclusion" to the medical examinations he had undergone so far.

Mr Ceausescu is formally charged with "complicity to genocide". The indictment, read at the opening of the trial in late May, said 89 people were killed in Sibiu in fighting between the army, which eventually sided with revolutionaries, and the former dictator's security troops.

Mr Ceausescu, who pleads not guilty to the genocide charge, has admitted the lesser charge of illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

The prosecution has largely failed to provide concrete evidence that Mr Ceausescu had issued orders to fire at demonstrators during the popular revolt that ended with his parents' execution last December.

Last week his sister, Zoia Elena, and his older brother, Valentin, were released from prison after a Bucharest military tribunal determined that the investigation into their alleged crimes of "undermining the national economy" can be carried out "without maintaining their state of preventative detention".

Former KGB chief tops poll in tense contest

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

GENERAL Oleg Kalugin, the former head of Soviet counter-intelligence, who is competing to become a member of the Soviet parliament, topped the poll in Krasnodar at the weekend but failed to gain the percentage of votes necessary to win the seat outright.

He will now have to fight a second round against the runner-up, a popular local worker, Nikolai Gorovoy.

General Kalugin became a national celebrity in June after he publicly criticised the KGB for persisting in old-style practices and disregarding personal freedoms and the rights of the people. He was stripped of his rank and awards by presidential decree and the KGB has threatened to take him to court for divulging state secrets, an accusation the general strenuously denies.

The Krasnodar parliamentary seat was vacated by Ivan Polozkov when he was elected first secretary of the newly created Russian Federation Communist party. It is regarded as a politically

conservative constituency, with strong local loyalties. General Kalugin's candidacy had been expected to split the voters.

At the spring parliamentary elections the trend was for city dwellers to support those candidates who were either identifiably hostile to the party establishment or who stood on a law-and-order platform. In the event he polled 44.93 per cent of the votes in a contest which was described by *Pravda* as "unusually antagonistic, tense and sometimes straying beyond the bounds of the permissible".

Nikolai Gorovoy received 10.66 per cent. The second round will be held on September 2. The turnout, at 60 per cent, was low in Soviet terms.

General Kalugin's supporters complained of an establishment campaign to prevent his election. The central press has also published articles purportedly written by former KGB colleagues alleging character de-

fects, including inconsistency, favouritism and vanity, in the former KGB general. One made insinuations about his relations with the CIA when he served as head of the KGB in the United States.

During the election campaign the general filed a civil lawsuit against President Gorbachev, the prime minister and the head of the KGB. The substance of his charges is that he was illegally stripped of his awards, his rank and his pension and should have all three reinstated.

● **Sanctions call:** President Ayaz Mutalibov of Azerbaijan yesterday called for sanctions against Armenia after worsening border clashes over the past three days which have left at least five people dead.

In a televised appeal, Mr Mutalibov said Azerbaijan would have to take action, for which it may request international solidarity, to protect its sovereignty and independence in the face of armed attacks by Armenians. (AFP)

Canadian Indians lift rail blockade

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

TRANSCONTINENTAL rail services were returning to normal in Canada yesterday as native Indians removed the last of two blockades they had erected across lines in north-western Ontario.

The blockades, at White River and at Longlac, were put up by Ojibwa Indians last week in the fight for recognition of their claims for native land.

Yesterday's reopening of the Canadian Pacific line at White River, 200 miles east of Thunder Bay, came after the rail company had obtained a court injunction ordering the Indians to stop the blockade, which was in its fifth day. Earlier, Canadian National had obtained a similar court order for Longlac, 100 miles north of White River. That line reopened on Sunday after being closed for nearly a week.

Hundreds of freight and passenger trains, bound from Ontario to western Canada, were cancelled because of the

blockades, or were re-routed through the northern United States. Several hundred Canadian Pacific employees received layoff notices.

Negotiations resumed yesterday in another Indian land-claim dispute, this one at Oka, Quebec. They had been broken off on Monday by Mohawk Indian representatives who complained that soldiers had moved too close to an Indian barricade. The soldiers pulled back.

Other army units relieved hundreds of police maintaining an uneasy peace between commuters and Mohawk warriors who have been blockading a busy bridge over the St Lawrence River at Montreal.

In other land disputes, Algonquin Indians agreed yesterday to reopen a road they have been blockading in La Verendrye provincial park in Quebec, while Indians continued to block a railway line in the interior of British Columbia.

Guerrilla attacks rock Peru

FROM AFP IN LIMA

A WAVE of terror attacks rocked Peru just hours before the start yesterday of a 24-hour nationwide strike called by the unions.

The campaign of violence by Shining Path guerrillas resulted in four people dead, a big blackout, two car-bomb explosions and attacks on public offices, authorities said.

The tension that has gripped Peru since the government announced severe austerity measures 13 days ago, rose on Monday when police occupied Lima and other principal cities.

The union protest was directed against the economic policy of the three-week-old government of President Alberto Fujimori. He has raised the price of some staples between 400 and 1,000 per cent as part of his austerity drive.

Australia abolishes the dole

Canberra - Australia's Labor government abolished unemployment benefits in a tough budget aimed at reducing welfare payments.

Paul Keating, the treasurer, said that 380,000 people receiving indefinite unemployment benefits of \$Aus 105 (£43) a week each would instead get \$Aus 57 a week for up to 12 months. The savings will be used to service a government debt of about \$Aus 23 billion. (Reuters)

Jogger verdict

Syracuse - A New York jury has convicted a man aged 23 of the 1986 rape, beating and stabbing of a jogger, who staggered two miles for help with a knife in her neck. The jogger, aged 43, suffered brain damage and could not identify her attacker. Sentence is to be passed on September 5. (AP)

Maldives arrest

Colombo - Ilyas Ibrahim, the former Maldives trade and industry minister, who returned from self-imposed exile in Britain early this month, has been placed under house arrest in Male. A committee is investigating allegations of corruption against him.

Generals killed

Taipei - A military transport plane crashed in central Taiwan, killing all 18 servicemen on board including Lin Lung Hsien, the air force deputy chief of staff, and two other generals, a military spokesman said. (AFP)

Escobar reward

Medellin - Colombia has more than doubled the reward for information leading to the arrest of Pablo Escobar, the nation's most-wanted drug trafficker to almost \$1 million (£526,000), according to army information. (Reuters)

Shuttle cleared

Cape Canaveral - The space shuttle Columbia is scheduled for a September 1 launch, marking the return to service of the shuttle fleet which has been grounded since May by fuel leaks. The US space agency said. (Reuters)

Brazil sabotage

Brasilia - A sabotage attack on a power pylon created a day-long power cut to most of the Brazilian capital and also affected two other cities. Striking power workers are suspected. (AFP)

Mud buries 10

Mexico City - A mudslide rolling down a mountainside buried part of the remote hamlet of La Luz in the southern state of Oaxaca, killing 10 people and injuring five, it was reported. (AP)

Students' grant

Peking - About 40 Zairian students ended a six-day occupation of their nation's embassy here after their government promised them \$187,500 (£98,000) in unpaid living allowances and plane tickets home. (AP)



Milosevic: Champion of Serbian nationalism

New role for socialism

Martin Jacques

Last August we still had little idea what a momentous year 1989 was going to be. Virtually the only straw in the wind had been Tiananmen Square. Yet by November, the world was a quite different place. The geo-political map had been transformed, and the history of socialism, one of the most potent influences of the 20th century, had been profoundly revised.

There has been remarkably little debate in Britain about the meaning of the events of 1989 for the socialist tradition. The assumption has been that it did not mean much. In a sense this is fair, for the socialist tradition here and elsewhere in Western Europe has had little in common with what ruled the roost in Eastern Europe. But the matter cannot be left there. Socialism has long been thought of as a systemic alternative to capitalism. That, after all, is what clause four of the Labour party constitution is about. And this idea of socialism was one of the casualties of 1989, along with the related idea of socialism as a natural historical progression from capitalism.

Of course, this is old ground for the Western European social-democratic tradition. This tradition long ago abandoned the idea of socialism as a long-term ambition or inspirational vision. The Labour party took rather longer to reach this conclusion, but it too appears now, at least in practice, to have arrived at the same destination. Meanwhile, over the last decade, the mainstream social-democratic tradition in Western Europe (with the exception of Sweden) has to a remarkable extent ceased to offer any radical structural alternative.

Western European social democracy may be more successful electorally than it has ever been, yet at no time since the war has it been less distinctive as a political force. Its post-war crusade — the Keynesian project — lies in tatters. In the realm of economic strategy, social democracy these days is not always easy to distinguish from neo-liberalism, as the example of the Spanish government shows.

The reason for the collapse of the Keynesian project lies more in material change than political argument. The internationalisation of economic processes undermined a policy dependent upon the integrity of national economies. Keynesianism in one country became impossible to sustain. As a result, social democracy was deprived of any significant novelty in the economic sphere. The Labour party's latest policy review document bears eloquent testimony to this. Its policy today is essentially confined to the social sphere, to redistribution via the welfare state.

Theoretically, of course, it would be possible to revive a

distinctive economic project on a wider international plane, for instance in the context of the European Community, but that is another matter altogether.

The weakening of the identity of social democracy has other causes too. Originally, social democracy was built on the working class, but that now is but a shadow of its former self. The very culture in which social democracy, including the Labour party, was once embedded is steadily dissolving. And of course its chosen instrument, the state, has lost much of its old shine.

As we approach the end of the millennium, socialism seems less capable of addressing the future than perhaps at any time this century. The Western socialist tradition long ago lost its sense of Utopianism. Even what replaced it, the idea of structural reform, has been weakened. Meanwhile, the collapse of socialism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has thoroughly discredited any idea of it being a workable alternative to capitalism.

Yet while socialism is in decline, notions of collectivism are on the rise, but now coloured green rather than red. The new spirit of the age stresses the importance of the universal human interest in preserving nature. It urges a new sense of global equality in the face of climatic warming. Collectivism based on old class values may be in retreat, but collectivism based on the environmental imperative is in the ascendant. By contrast, market individualism, which carried all before it in the Eighties, looks dated and inadequate.

The decline of socialism is a result of post-industrialism. New problems and preoccupations mean that the socialist tradition can no longer assume, as it once did, the mantle of the universal historical alternative, the bearer of solutions to all problems. This is not to imply that the socialist tradition will wilt, simply that its reach is now more modest and its role more attenuated. It has lost its monopoly of progressive aims and values. It no longer controls that agenda as it did.

Increasingly, the socialist tradition will be forced to defer to and negotiate with other traditions, of which greenery is presently the outstanding example. This does not mean that social-democratic parties will necessarily decline. The West German SPD, for example, has easily withstood the challenge of the Greens and even been renewed by it. Rather, social-democratic parties are likely to remain the dominant parties of European centre-left opinion. But in the process they are likely to become less self-contained, homogeneous and doctrinaire, and ever more porous, hybrid and ecumenical.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Radio 4 is currently running a series called *Radio Lives*. Each week, a major figure from radio's past — Gilbert Harding, C.E.M. Joad, Stephen Potter — is examined in a celebratory portrait.

Some people might worry that the current crop of radio personalities — Derek Jameson, Dave Lee Travis, Gloria Hunniford — will render scant harvest for a similar series 20 years from now. Is there a real Derek Jameson? Is it worth plumb the shallows of Dave Lee Travis? Would a major profile of Gloria Hunniford reveal a driving passion for the modal logic of Jan Łukasiewicz? From the listener's chair, it seems a little unlikely.

But all is not lost. There is one figure in contemporary radio whose contribution vastly outweighs all others in terms both of extent and quality, a woman of such ubiquity that each facet of her character might happily merit its own profile: Anne Ekspert.

"We have Anne Ekspert in the studio today, to answer any question you might have on the vexed issue of nuclear disarmament." "Earlier this morning, I asked Anne Ekspert what this could mean for the future of East-West relations..." "And I have with me this afternoon, Anne Ekspert, who is calling for increased legislation to protect our wild flora and fauna..."

"And later in the programme, Anne Ekspert tells us how to cook a three-course dinner for six — and all for under £10." We all recognise the name, but how much do we know of the woman herself?

Born in Sweden, Anne Ekspert showed early signs of the impeccable orderliness that would distinguish her career when, finishing an ice-cream, she called for urgent legislation to prevent the accidental swallowing of wrappers. Her mother, whom she was later to describe affectionately as "an ordinary member of the public", recorded the young Anne's very first words in her *Baby Book*. They were "health hazard", "affect us all" and "amid increased fears". Even at this early stage, Anne's parents realised she had a natural instinct for what radio required.

By the age of five, Anne had begun to chip in on the conversations of others, adding

a note of authority to their otherwise lacklustre chit-chat. "Warm for the time of year, isn't it?" a neighbour once remarked to Mrs Ekspert, only to be sharply corrected by the young Anne. "It is in fact slightly below the seasonal average," she said. "Nevertheless, we welcome all your comments, however ludicrous."

Leaving over neighbourhood fences, she would offer gardening tips to all who needed them, and many who did not. She was always ready to offer consumer advice to busy housewives from her position on the doorstep of the village shop. Health matters were a particular concern. She strongly disapproved of the posture of Barbie Dolls, advising that such inflexibility could lead to serious spinal disorders in later years.

It was the birth of the radio phone-in programme in the London of the early 1970s that saw the burgeoning of Anne Ekspert. In her teenage years, she had selflessly devoted herself to her very own phone-out programmes, in which she would telephone complete strangers, offering them advice on everything from car maintenance to developments in the modern novel. Where once those strangers might have expressed themselves bewildered, not to say irritated, by such an intrusion, they now actively sought it out, spending their own money telephoning radio stations from which Anne Ekspert was broadcasting.

Soon, not only ordinary people were heeding her advice, but governments too. "Anne Ekspert today advised the Ministry of Agriculture that the disease is a cause for concern..." "And, later in the programme, Anne Ekspert predicts that Mr Kinnock will be facing a stormy conference..." "Anne Ekspert warns that eating can cause cancer..." By the 1980s, she had established herself as the prime force in broadcasting, the one oracle no one thought to question.

Now married — to a Major Alarm — Anne Ekspert has combined her career in broadcasting with bringing up a family. As a new decade dawns, radio producers are only too happy to devote entire programmes to the views of a whole panel of Eksperts, though few of them can quite remember why.

Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait has left Europe bewildered and divided. Despite swift and unanimous condemnation, it is unclear what to do next. In Brussels, there has been silence: the European Community, lacking a foreign policy and defence role, cannot draw up a military strategy. Until yesterday's meeting of the Western European Union, each country reacted individually, the different interests of Britain, France, Germany and Benelux leading to the piecemeal dispatch of warships, a babble of different instructions, botched national initiatives and a confused public argument over ends and means.

These divisions have been reflected in widely differing reports in the press, and a gamut of contradictory editorial opinion. Spain, Portugal and Belgium, traditionally aloof from Middle East wars and passions, were slow to recognise the crisis. This was a problem, their governments seemed to think, mainly for the Arabs and the Americans. The Portuguese foreign minister did not even interrupt his holiday to attend the emergency Nato meeting.

The French press, taking its cue from the government, immediately distanced itself from the vigorous Anglo-American response. French commentators were embarrassed that France was Iraq's leading western arms supplier yet confident that France's "even-handed" attitude to the Arabs would give it more influence in Baghdad than the hothouses of Washington and London. Opinion polls showed less than 50 per cent in favour of a strong French military presence.

But events have moved swiftly, and so has public opinion. Criticism of the government's softly-softly approach has sharpened because of the official secrecy over the plight of French citizens in Kuwait and Iraq, the swift rise in oil prices, and the angry realisation that France was duped into the naive belief that the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, could wangle a special deal for France. The French are far more sensitive than the British to the continued detention of their hostages in Lebanon. The prospect of 500 more being held captive in the Gulf has aroused anger and revulsion at what is seen as earlier appeasement.



Michael Binyon reports on the fragmented EC response that only now is edging towards Britain's tough line

"The civilised world has a choice — fall into the trap [of appeasement] or cut the Gordian knot immediately. Otherwise we face a terrible decade in which we will lose our honour, liberty and our lives," said *Presse de la Manche*, a Normandy paper, yesterday. Another leading provincial paper, the *République du Centre*, wrote: "Being with the Americans and also safeguarding our Arab friendships has proved impossible. Saddam Hussein has forced President Mitterrand to choose sides."

But whereas the French press has become more hawkish, the Germans have, if anything, become more muddled and divided. Germany is the only major European country where the Gulf crisis has not dominated the news. The break-up of the East German coalition and the economy are of more immediate concern.

The West German press has reflected government divisions on the action that should be taken,

and whether constitutional limitations bar dispatch of its ships to the Gulf. Right-wing papers such as *Die Welt* have defended the US blockade of Iraq, and applauded Chancellor Kohl's apparent commitment last week to send forces to the Gulf. But the centre and left-wing papers have reflected the insistence by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, that this is undesirable and constitutionally impossible.

The old anxieties about the use of military force have come into play. "The Germany that is being received back into the family of nations does not have to prove to the world right away that it is still skilled in the art of war," a commentator for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* said yesterday. Even the conservative *Frankfurter Allgemeine* said the Bundeswehr should not become a rapid deployment force, and that German interests are different from those of Britain and the US. Yet the left-wing *Frankfurter Rund-*

schau insisted that Germany cannot go on standing on the sidelines and citing the constitutional impediments. "Countries claiming full rights of sovereignty also have duties," the paper said.

Genscher is a Free Democrat, and the defence minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg, a Christian Democrat; this has muddled the debate over whether a rapid constitutional change is needed to permit direct participation in Gulf operations. But press and politicians alike are more occupied by the row over accelerated reunification. Most papers still see no role for Germany in the Gulf, and old suspicions of American intentions are prominent in the coverage of liberal papers such as *Die Zeit*.

Smaller countries have been quick to react. The Dutch and Belgian press applauded their countries' dispatch of ships to the Gulf. In both countries, there has been a growing disenchantment with the tendency of the big EC members to ignore the smaller,

and the Netherlands in particular is showing that a country of 14 million has strong views and a determination to live up to international responsibilities.

Belgium, despite a weak coalition, has recently cast off traditional reticence in favour of a more outspoken foreign policy on human rights, as in Zaire, its former colony. Mark Eyskens, the Belgian foreign minister, has repeatedly denounced the Iraqi action on television, and has been strongly supported by the press. *La Dernière Heure* saw international military action against Iraq as the only solution.

Most confused of all is Italy, which currently holds the EC presidency. Gianni De Michelis, the foreign minister, quickly launched an EC initiative, convening a meeting of ministers and leading a delegation to Amman, Jeddah and Cairo; but for all its Euro-enthusiasm, Italy has found that the EC has no real role to play. And in contrast to the Gulf war in 1988, Italy was slow to send ships to the Gulf. Editorials have denounced the government for dithering, but most Italians still think the UN should take the lead and 65 per cent are against military involvement.

Many people on the continent initially thought Britain's resolute stance showed a preference for the alliance with America over obligations to the EC, but our initial isolation now looks less exotic and more principled. It took two weeks of public argument and a meeting of the Western European Union, a normally dormant body, to formulate a cohesive and co-ordinated response. Even then there was the almost comical spectacle of ministers from three nations — Ireland, Denmark and Greece — waiting outside in the corridor until the nine participants could change hats and sit down again to discuss the same issue in their roles as EC representatives.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, insists that the lack of a defence dimension in Brussels is nonsensical, and this crisis may reinforce his point and the calls for closer integration. Yet to others, the events of the past week reinforce the view that no European foreign policy could ever stick for long.

David Bloor believes B.F. Skinner's behavioural science theories still have a long way to run

Even a computer can be rewarded...

The behavioural scientist B.F. Skinner, who died last weekend, has been harshly dealt with in the obituaries. While it would be exaggerating to say that he is a hate figure, he certainly had an unfavourable image for much of his life. He is associated with an unflattering picture of human beings as creatures who can be manipulated by external stimuli, lacking creative powers or special characteristics which set them off from the rest of nature. While he did hold many of these views, Skinner's work and ideas are easily underestimated. The fashionable dismissals may yet prove wrong.

Skinner's central idea, called "operant conditioning", is very simple. All organisms, he said, whether rats or birds or humans, are spontaneously "emitting" behaviour. Sometimes what they do is rewarded or reinforced, and this increases the chance that they will repeat it. Without reward, natural restlessness and variability generate new behaviour. Fixed and reliable patterns are maintained only through systematic rewards such as food, sexual gratification or more subtle forms of social incentive.

These claims are not merely theoretical. Skinner was primarily an experimenter, and was strongly opposed to building theories prematurely. For many purposes, he said, we could treat an organism as a black box whose contents are unknown. In numerous demonstrations he "shaped" (to use one of his favourite terms) the behaviour of an animal, often a pigeon. He would start giving the animal rewards of food as soon as its behaviour approximated to what he wanted, and then he gradually refined the "rewards schedule" until he got exactly what he required. For example, he and his co-workers were able to make pigeons tirelessly peck at, and hence identify, small misshapen components in a production line. He had trained them in the difficult task of quality control.

How did Skinner get his birds to perform so diligently once he had stopped training them? When rewards are cut off, behaviour will "extinguish", but the secret is to use random and infrequent rewards. Then the extinction can take an enormously long time.

Analogies with human behaviour are immediate and tempting. How should your daughter get rid of that tiresome boyfriend? If solicitor general for Scotland, has called for it to be removed from sale. "This sort of thing should not be allowed to be sold on the streets at such a time." The government, on the other hand, may decide it is hardly worth the bother.

Alongside *New Line's* calls for support for Iraq, the paper also offers the British working class this reasoned advice: "Organise the general strike to bring down the Tories." As it has been saying so every day for the past ten years to little discernible effect, the prospect of workers rising up in the factories to support Saddam looks equally remote.

Too cruel by far
With about as much tact as offering a drowning man a glass of water, the menu for the RSPCA conference on animal welfare in Oxford this week has included ragout of venison for lunch and escalope of veal for dinner. Staff at Christ Church, which is hosting the conference, seemed blissfully unaware that about half the 200 delegates are vegetarians and, worse, that the RSPCA has conducted campaigns against carved veal — by which calves are starved of light and vitamins to keep their flesh white — and strongly opposes deer hunting.

"Provided it is humanely slaughtered, meat or poultry for the non-vegetarians would be acceptable," says Gavin Grant, the RSPCA's public relations chief. "But we have been involved in a campaign in Europe to get the EC to ban veal crates, and they have already been banned in England. Yet we discovered that

children go around repeating sentences for which they have been rewarded? How can we explain their creative use of language? The argument has ramified: if operant conditioning can generate language, then why can animals not use language? Skinner never replied to this review and Chomsky's idea of the brain as pre-programmed with grammatical rules innate and special to humans has come to dominate.

Few scientific debates have seemed more decisive. Skinner's ideas appear to have been relegated to that limbo populated by quaint and exploded theories. But some lingering doubts remain. To begin with, Chomsky and Skinner focused on different things: Chomsky concentrated on the grammatical links between words and the world. Next, supporters of Chomsky may have overplayed the point about creativity. There are some ways in which a Skinnerian organism can be creative, by producing old responses to a new but similar stimulus, for example. Isn't this like metaphor and analogy? And don't we learn a language by exploiting similarities and constructing new sentences on the pattern of old ones?

Finally, there are those in the field of neuroscience who say that Chomsky's idea of the brain working by a set of internal rules has had its day. Some remarkable results, even in the field of language learning, are being reported by those who build computer models of the brain and treat it as an unstructured neural network. They do not programme their computers with rules, but "train" in their networks by feeding back information about successes and failures, as the machines learn to make some desired discrimination. In Skinner's terms the operators subject their computers to a reward schedule, and in some cases such computer learning models work better than computers given rules.

No one can predict where scientific research in these fields will lead, but it would be premature to conclude that the line of work started by Skinner is finished. Of course his work was too simple. Psychologists won't take it up in the form he left it, but he may turn out to have been heading in the right direction after all.

The author is reader in the Science Studies Unit, Edinburgh University.

Skinner is right, make sure he does not get random and infrequent rewards for his unwanted attentions, for they will only ensure his ardour is slow to extinguish.

There are many cases in which a dose of Skinnerian thinking might pay dividends. Teachers want to encourage silent pupils to talk and prevent the garrulous ones from hogging the discussion. Skinner would advise them to adjust the reward schedule by carefully controlling the flow of nods and smiles. These ideas might seem cold and manipulative, but there is nothing inhumane about putting into practice one of Skinner's most notable findings: that in encouraging a kind of behaviour, rewarding its occurrence is more effective than punishing its absence.

In the field of human language acquisition, Skinner's name has become a byword for error and reaction. In 1957 he wrote a book in which he extended his principles of operant conditioning to language learning. It was reviewed by the linguistics professor Noam Chomsky, who, in the opinion of most psychologists and linguists, destroyed Skinner's entire approach. If we learn by conditioning, Chomsky asked, why don't

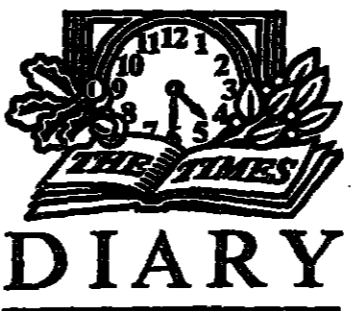
again, and Bray has everything to offer. When will they ever learn?"

Cushing, whose partnership with Christopher Lee was the greatest double act during the heyday of British horror films, looks back on the Hammer era with affection. "The adjective 'horror' has a strong pull at the box office, but I prefer 'fantasy', which is what those films are. I count myself lucky to have contributed to the output of that fabulous factory, which has given such great pleasure all over the world."

Silent tribute
Typically, Sir Alec Guinness, that most reclusive of British actors, refused to speak when he made a rare public appearance yesterday to present the £5,000 prize in the *Literary Review's* annual poetry competition at the Cafe Royal. To audience disappointment, he simply presented the cheque to the winner, Frank McDonald, and walked off the platform; but even if not for his long friendship with the magazine's editor, Auberon Waugh, he would not have been there at all.

"I knew Evelyn, his father, and liked him a lot," Sir Alec said. "After Evelyn's death, my signed copy of a limited edition of his book about the Holy Land was stolen. Later somebody rang me from New York to say he had bought it in a secondhand bookshop and was astonished that I could have sold it."

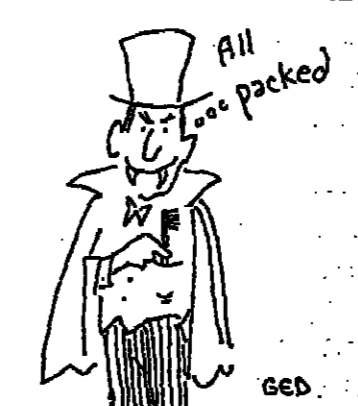
Sir Alec mentioned this to Bron, who gave him another of the signed limited edition copies of *The Holy Places*. Yesterday was his way of expressing his thanks.



Blood up

A group of brave, if not foolhardy, property developers are proposing to demolish the British home of Count Dracula. They have their eyes on Bray film and TV studios, the home of Hammer Horror films, which they want to raze to make way for an office block.

Windsor and Maidenhead council meets to consider the proposal next month, but even if they escape the attentions of the Prince of Darkness, the developers will have to contend with the objections of his representative on



earth, Peter Cushing, who has been frightening the life out of millions for the past 30 years. The 76-year-old veteran of more than 80 films, including such classics as *The Curse of Frankenstein*, *The Brides of Dracula* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, has asked the council to reject the scheme. "It will be said if the developers have their way and demolish the place," he says. "The day will come when studios will be in great demand



August 21: The Queen invested The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowden, with the Insignia of the Royal Victorian Chain.

By command of The Queen,
Lieutenant-General Sir John

Mr P.H.B. Allsop, publisher, 66; Mr John A. Sanham, director-general, 63; Mr J. H. Bohnan, chairman, 64; Mr Ray Bradbury, author, 70; Professor Sir Colin Buchanan, urban planner, 83; M Henri Barbusse, photographer, 82; Mrs C. E. Earle, Cartier, 71; Sir Richard Catling, former Commissioner of Kenyan Police, 78; Professor Sir Cyril Astley Clark, geneticist, 82; Mr R. G. Smeaton, football player, 33; Mr Somerset de Chair, former MP, 79; Judge Anne Downey, 54; Baroness Ewar-Biggs, 61; Mr Max Heppner, actor, husband of actress, 53; Mr Donald MacLeay, ballet dancer, 53; Sir James Menzies, former principal, Queen Mary College, 69; Sir Leo Baeck, music servant, 71; Dr Karlheinz Stockhausen, composer and conductor, 62; Sir Anthony Tuke, former chair-

Richards (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Dr J.L.S. Abbey and Mrs Abbey at 13 Belgrave Square this afternoon in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Ghana in London.

Orinowski, Abraham, 1900.
Robert Cecil, 3rd Marquis of Salisbury, prime minister 1885-86, 1892-97, 1895-1900, 1902.
Oat, Hatfield House, Herts, 1903.
Michael Collins, Irish patriot, and IRA leader, killed in an ambush, 1922.
O'Connell, Thomas-Blath, Court, 1927.
O'Sullivan, Sir Oliver, lawyer, 1922.
Lake, Wills, 1840; Michael Fokine, ballet dancer and choreographer, New York, 1942; William, Richard Morris, 1911.
Viscount, Nuffield, 1911.
Huntermcombe, Oxon. 1963.
Jomo Kenyatta, president of Kenya 1964-78, Mobassa, 1978.
French forces landed in Ireland, 1798. The United States annexed New Mexico, 1846.

The following have been elected officers of the Society of Apothecaries of London for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr D.G.A. Eadie, Senior

RASC and RCT Officers' Luncheon Club
The Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Officers' Luncheon Club entertained Lord Foot at luncheon yesterday at Mark Masons Hall. Brigadier D.N. Locke, chairman, presided.

HM Government
Lord Sanderson of Bowden,
Minister of State at the Scottish
Office, was host at a Highlands
reception given by Her Maj-
esty's Government last night
in Brodie Castle, Forres,
Morayshire.

Appointments
 Robert Gray, QC,
 as Chancellor of
 Southwark in su-
 p. Worshipful and R.

[illegible][illegible]

• Mr Eamonn Andrews, of Normbrook, Co Dublin, the television personality, left estate in England and Wales valued at £5,501 net.

• Mr Peter John Blyth, of Leigh Woods, Bristol, left estate valued at £1,749,439 net. He left £20,000 and some effects to family legates, and the remainder to charity including £250,000 each to Bristol Children's hospital, Great Ormond Street hospital, London, and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. He left £100,000 each to the Venice in Peril Fund, the British Red Cross Society and the British Heart Foundation.

• Mr Sidney Sturman, of London NW4, a company director, late of Pantan Film Distributors Ltd, left estate valued at £1,092,081 net.

• Other estates included (net before tax):

• Mr Alfred Leslie Lerrwill, of North Moltso, Devon £408,636.

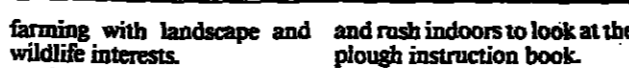
• Mr Frank Michael John Little, of Bristol, Avon £398,000.

• Mrs Catherine Lillian Moran.

of Cardiff, South Glamorgan, 1862-1911.
 John Edmund Musket, of Ashwellthorpe, Norfolk, 1809-1937.
 Evelyn Dorothy Dates, of East Keswick, West Yorkshire, 1881-1953.
 Mr Herbert Denham Parker, of Pinner west London, 1929-1967.
 Mrs Mary Ivy Paul, of London, 1875-1959.
 Elizabeth Scatter Rendell, of Braine, Essex, 1826-1943.
 Mr Brian Norman Simpkins, of Corwen, Cwyd, 1875-1941.
 Mr Ernest Smith, of Worsley, Greater Manchester, 1850-1912.
 Mrs Ruth Thompson, of Old Bosham, West Sussex, 1842-1982.
 Mr Alec Clifford Turner, of Penryn, Cornwall, 1877-1918.
 Mrs Brenda Doreen Turner, of Broad Walk, London N12, 1852-1992.
 Miss Phyllis Walton, of Selsey, West Sussex, 1873-1924.
 Edith Emily Wenden, of Colchester, Kent, 1867-1909.
 Mr Donald Williams, of London, 1867-1911.

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Oscar Colburn, CBE, a farmer who established the only new breed this century of British sheep, the Colbred, died on August 19 at the age of 65. He was born on January 14, 1925.



Almost every farming honour came his way, culminating in the presentation of the Royal Agricultural Society of England's gold medal at this year's Royal Show for distinguished landownership. This was for someone who used to wear this medal in the early days of farming, when he was mentioned about a plough setting by his tractor driver, he would expect to hear the telephone

Colburn's public work was equally distinguished: a Crown Estate Commissioner since 1976 — work he loved — High Sheriff, chairman of the local bench, and a host of other duties, all carried out selflessly, as too were all the calls made on him for advice from the owner of a farm or house to invest some widow's mite. He was appointed CBE in 1981.

Sir Alexander Cuthbert Turnbull, CBE, Nuffield Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Oxford University since 1973, died aged 65 on August 18. He was born on January 18, 1925.

ALEC Turnbull's reputation rested on the original work he did from the 1950s onwards to unravel the mechanism of women's labour in childbirth. He developed his work on induction of labour, which made him an international name, in stages, starting it in Aberdeen and then continued, refining and adapting it, when he was later in Cardiff and finally while in Oxford. His approach to the induction of labour resulted in a series of papers, with Dr Anne Anderson, published in the late 1960s, which revolutionised the approach to this aspect of childbirth. The approach he based on using intravenous oxytocin, a synthetic hormone. Using the technologies of the day, he developed an infusion pump, known as the "Cardiff pump", designed to

Mr C.E. Dean
and **Miss C.L. Dean**
Mr and Mrs J.R.J. Dean, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, are pleased to announce the engagement of their only daughter, **Linda Louise**, to **Colin Edward**, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. Dean, of Christchurch, Dorset.

Mr G. Ellis
and **Miss L. Brooks**
The engagement is announced between the only son of Mr Frank Ellis, of Harley Street, London, and of Mrs Daphne Ellis, of Abington Pigotts, Cambridgeshire, and **Linda**, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ray Brooks, of Portsea, Bristol.

Captain J.B.M. Troughton
and **Miss R.C.V. Aubrey-Conn**
The engagement is announced between **Captain Jeremy Bryan Troughton**, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, son of Colonel and Mrs Christopher Troughton, of Fressingfield, Suffolk, and **Rachael Caroline Violet**, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Aubrey-Conn, of St. Andrew, Gloucestershire.

Mr. D.J. Cairncross and Miss T. Ishii
The marriage took place on July 13, of David, son of Sir Alec and Lady Cairncross, of Oxford, and Yumiko, daughter of Mr and Mrs Masaichi Ishii, of Abiko, Japan.

Mr G.A. Blackburn-Hamilton and Miss S.M.C. Roberts
Mr G.A. Blackburn-Hamilton and Miss S.M.C. Roberts were married on August 16, 1990, at a private ceremony.

The marriage took place on Saturday, August 4, at Troon Old Parish Church, Ayrshire, of Jonathan David, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Page, of Norwich, Norfolk, to Deirdre Marlon, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alex Davis, of Kilmwinning, Ayrshire. The Rev C.E. Offor officiated assisted by Dom Alban Crossley OSB.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alison, Jill and Anna Crombie. Captain Michael James RM, was best man.

The reception was held at The Grosvenor House Hotel and the honeymoon was spent in Italy.

Copper mine yields evidence of prehistoric workings

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

EVIDENCE of prehistoric copper mining has been found in Wales, indicating that the principal constituent of bronze may not have been imported into Britain, as has often been assumed. Radiocarbon dates suggest that the mines were operating as early as 2000 BC, shortly after the introduction of metal technology from the Continent.

The discoveries have emerged from excavations by the Early Mines Research Group, and especially from the current work by Simon Timberlake of the Geological Museum on Copsa Hill in Dyfed. The site at Cwmystwyth is 1,500 ft above sea level, overlooking the remains of historic lead-mining operations in the Ystwyth Valley.

Excavations this year have uncovered the mouth of a cave-like gallery, buried beneath several yards of shale from erosion and 19th century workings. The roof of the gallery appears to have been pounded by stone hammers, and there is black staining which could be evidence of burning, or alternatively of a manganese salt. Mr Timberlake hopes to find evidence of fire-setting, a primitive mining technique in which wood fires were used to shatter the rock face.

He has also discovered the copper sulphide or chalcopryrite intimately associated with lead sulphide in the Copsa Hill lode. He believes that the mine, which has so far produced dates as early as 1680 BC, may have yielded up to

THE grave of one of the earliest Welsh saints may have been found during the excavation of the church that held her shrine. Fragments of the shrine have also been recovered, and it is to be reconstructed in its original location (Norman Hammond writes).

The saint, Melangell, seems to have lived in the 8th century. The legend of her life survives in a 17th century transcript of a lost medieval document: a prince called Brochwel was hunting at Penrnat, in the hills southwest of Llangollen, when his hounds startled a hare. It took refuge in a thicket, and was found hiding in a virgin's robes. The hounds fled, and the huntsman was unable to remove his horn from his lips. Brochwel was so impressed that he granted the valley to Melangell to found a religious community.

The place today is called Penntant Melangell, but the stone church dates only to the 12th century. Mr Robert Heaton, the architect who has overseen restoration work for more than 30 years, says that the original buildings would have been of timber. He said the stone church was built towards the end of the 12th century to protect the grave. The Romanesque shrine was erected at about the same time, no doubt to contain relics from the grave.

The rebuilt apse now protects a deep grave, within the line of the original apse, that is thought to have been traditionally identified as Melangell's.

Sufficient fragments of the shrine were known in 1958 for Dr C.A. Raleigh Radford and Mr W.J. Hemp to suggest a reconstruction: now that excavations have shown that the shrine stood in the chancel of the church, it has been decided to rebuild it there. Work will be completed next spring.

The Irish mines, and others in Wales identified in the 1930s and restudied by Mr Timberlake and his colleagues, date to the early second millennium BC, with Mount Gabriel possibly being exploited as early as 2100 BC and a mine at Parys Mountain, Anglesey, before to 2000 BC.

Suggestions that the radiocarbon dates were on fossil wood, and hence much older than the mining activity, have been refuted by the dating of bone from a sealed horizon at Great Orme's Head to between 1740 and 1440 BC.

"This provides even stronger evidence for the antiquity of this mine and, by inference, of the whole group," Mr Janet Ambers, of the British Museum's radiocarbon dating laboratory, said. "The use of radiocarbon dating has succeeded in establishing an Early or Middle Bronze Age date for the exploitation of copper at sites in the British Isles."

MAURICE Gendron was one of the leading cellists of his generation, notable as much for his chamber-music playing as for his appearances as a soloist. He was typically

solist. He had used typically French gifts of a lean, well-centred tone and elegance of style. He was a disciple of Casals, who conducted performances of the Haydn and Boccherini concertos with Gendron as the soloist, evidence enough of the older player's admiration for the younger. Latterly Gendron combined his career as a cellist with a new vocation as a conductor, where he revealed an appreciable knowledge of a wide repertory.

Gendron entered Nice's Music Conservatory at the age of 12. Five years later he went to the Paris Conservatoire to study with Gerard Hekking. There, in 1938, he took first prize in cello. He was soon in demand in the French capital as a soloist and was to be heard in the salons frequented by artists and writers. Picasso, Cocteau and Mauriac were among those who came to hear the young Gendron.



Philip Hayllar, Sussex parish priest, has died aged 80. He was born on June 21, 1910.

WHEN Winston Churchill was on his deathbed, his daughter Mary Soames sent for Philip Hayllar to pray by his bedside: he was an old family friend. She later wrote: "He came quietly into the house unremarked. My mother and I knelt on either side of my father's bed, while Philip Hayllar said some simple prayers and blessed him. Winston was now unconscious and slipping gradually into deeper sleep. We knew in our hearts that he was dying." Thousands more were similarly comforted by Hayllar in time of bereavement.

Philip Hayllar joined the church just before the outbreak of the second world war, in which he served as a naval chaplain. He had a spell as headmaster of a Hampshire public school, but gave up the post to devote himself full-time to the church. He became in turn rector of Uckfield, Erridge and Ringmer between the 1950s to the 1970s. In all three places he won many friends. He was very much a family priest, equally present

Sheffield
Appointments to chairs
 Adrian Saul, lecturer in engineering at the University of Manchester, took up a chair in Civil Engineering on February 1.
 Dr Gordon Duff, senior lecturer in rheumatology and director of the molecular immunology group in the University of Edinburgh Medical School, has been appointed to the Lord Foley Chair of Medicine, with effect from September 1.
 Professor Len Barton, professor of education at Bristol Polytechnic since 1989, has been appointed to the chair of education, with effect from September 1.

Dr Ian Peake, senior lecturer in pharmacology at the University of Wales College of Medicine, has been appointed to the Sir Edward Mellanby chair of molecular medicine, with effect from September 10.

Professor Charles Stirling, FRSc, professor of organic chemistry at the University of Stirling, has been appointed to the chair of organic chemistry, with effect from October 1.

Dr Maurice Skolnick, senior principal scientific officer at the Signals & Radar Establishment, Malvern, has been appointed to the chair of experimental condensed matter physics, with effect from January 1, 1991.

Dr Anthony Westman, lecturer in medicine at the University of Aberdeen Clinical School, has been appointed to the Sir Arthur Hall chair of medicine, with effect from April 1 1991.

The following members of staff have been promoted to chairs, with effect from October 1.

Dr Ernest Bailey, reader and chair of the department of molecular biology & biotechnology since 1988.

Miss Anne Beer, senior lecturer since 1984 and head of the department of landscape architecture since 1985.

Dr Stephen Billings, reader in the department of control engineering since 1985.

Dr Roger Brownsword, reader in the faculty of law since 1988.

Dr Dennis Burton, Lister Institute Jenner fellow and senior lecturer in the department of molecular biology & biotechnology since 1987.

Haylar was worldly in the way he loved to enjoy himself over a dinner and wine with his friends, and he enjoyed the theatrical side of the church. He was fond of music, especially jazz, and he would have liked the Anglican church to be more humorous. In Eridge he is remembered for the time when he suddenly became distracted in the middle of a sermon. He summoned a verger and some of his parishioners thought he had suddenly been taken ill, but they were assured when he whispered loudly that he had left a chicken in the oven and it would be burned to a crisp. On another occasion he halted the singing to complain: "We are all here to enjoy ourselves. Let's start again and this time sing!" He was an eccentric in the sense that he behaved like a priest from a time gone by — the heart and soul of his community. He exuded love and hope and was everything which should be most celebrated in a parish priest.

His wife, Dorothy, whom he married in 1973, survives him.

MEDIA

Brave pilot boards a leaky vessel

With heartfelt relief Nick Shott, the chief executive of the soon to be tabloid *Sunday Correspondent*, was finally able to announce last week that he had a new editor with impeccable credentials in both the quality and tabloid fields — John Bryant, deputy editor of *The Times* and a former executive editor in charge of features at the *Daily Mail*. Clearly Mr Bryant had hesitated for a few days, for at least three other names were being canvassed during that period. In the end the challenge to save a newspaper which most observers had given up for dead proved irresistible.

The odds are heavily against him. He lacks both time and money. Details of the refinancing package have been scanty, but it is known that Robert Maxwell has now joined the principal backers and has become the fourth-largest shareholder. Following the breakdown of its negotiations to take a stake in *The Independent*, the Tribune company of Chicago made a further contribution and so, despite an earlier board decision to commit no more money, did the Guardian company, if only on a limited scale. But raising the cash proved hard going. Contrary to earlier speculation that the *Correspondent* obtained a further £10 million, I believe that the total was not much more than £7 million.

If £1.5 million of that sum is spent on the relaunch in a tabloid format, and some part of it, say £500,000, has already been spent just keeping the paper alive prior to the relaunch, then Mr Bryant has to work the miracle before Christmas, say in the 16 weeks after the first Sunday in September. (The period immediately after Christmas is never too buoyant and after that money could be running out fast.) For a Sunday newspaper that means just 16 issues.

An additional problem is the advertising recession, which is affecting all quality newspapers. A newspaper like the *Correspondent*, with a current sale of only 155,000, is in a weak position to pitch for a bigger share of the advertising spend, and lack of advertising affects space. In broadsheet pages last Sunday the *Sunday Telegraph* carried 60 pages (including the Appointments section); the *Observer* mustered 72 (including eight in its "Schools Out" section); the *Independent on Sunday* had 74 (including 18 in its Business section and 28 in its Review); and the *Sunday Times* scored 92 in six sections, excluding the *Funday Times* cartoons. But the *Correspondent* could boast only 48 pages — a crippling

handicap on a day so pregnant with news.

Mr Bryant will also have to face the high cost of editorial coverage of the Gulf. At present his paper appears to have just one man in the Middle East. That will not be enough if a shooting war breaks out. And, as editor of a stand alone newspaper, he cannot share the expense with a daily brother. Perhaps *The Guardian* could help out.

Of course a shooting war, as opposed to the present period of rising tension, might help circulation. The quality market is suffering the usual seasonal decline as people go on holiday and students return home and read the family paper instead of buying one for themselves. But rising tension in the Gulf seems to have caused some reversal of the usual trend. At least some of the broadsheets seem to be benefiting from the pages of description and analysis, much of it of the highest quality, which they are offering their readers.

So what can be said on the positive side? First, there will be a big curiosity sale when the paper goes tabloid. After so

THE PRESS

Charles Wintour

much publicity about the *Correspondent's* difficulties many disenchanted former readers may be tempted to give it another try. And some of those people who complain that there's "too much to read" on Sundays might just conceivably be persuaded to see if the new formula works for them.

Then Mr Bryant must believe that he can transform the features side of the paper, which has so far proved a horrible disappointment. The "Section Two" front, which should be one of the main selling points of the paper, has been appallingly weak.

The decision not to "buy in" material was mistaken. While the established Sundays get the pick of the best sellers, there are plenty of books from which one extract is well worth buying, and the cost need not be high. And if Mr Bryant can find just one outstanding columnist he can dispense with most of the rest.

Above all, the look of the new tabloid is crucial. The present broadsheet seems cold and uninviting. The *Correspondent* provides an excellent news service; it just needs better projection. Mr Bryant might find it worthwhile to glance at the *London Daily News*, whose typography combined quality and verve. But that might be tempting fate too far. Anyway, he deserves the best of luck for his courage. All will be clear by Christmas, if not before.

From dole queue to press gang

The Manchester *Area News* is both a thriving publication and a rare training ground.

Bernard Silk reports

There is no doubt that *Area News* is a success: only six months old, it began as a monthly, is now published fortnightly, and may soon go weekly. But it is also the first local newspaper of its type in the country, having taken 23 young men and women off the dole queues of inner Manchester and put them to work as reporters.

Set up with aid of a government grant and private funding, *Area News* is attracting advertising from local businesses and should eventually become self-supporting, quite a feat considering no conventional local papers have been published on its patch — some of the city's poorest and worst regarded areas — for years.

The man behind the venture is John Elliott, aged 30, a journalist who has freelanced for BBC radio and television, and lives in Moss Side, where *Area News* has its headquarters.

"Living here, I saw the need for a local paper and also the number of bright youngsters, black and white, who were out of work," he says. "I thought if we could set up a paper using some sort of elementary training scheme, then youngsters who might not otherwise have a chance to get into journalism could sample it and perhaps go further."

Eventually, after four years, Mr Elliott persuaded the trade and industry department to back his vision with cash under its Inner City Task Force scheme. Any eventual profit — and Mr Elliott predicts the paper should be in profit by next year — will be ploughed back into community schemes.

The stake has gone towards renting an office, leasing equipment, paying the (small) staff and giving grants to trainees, all of whom must have at



Area composition: Sharon Merchant and Peter Hamilton make up pages that will go into 35,000 homes

least five O-levels. They undergo a year's training at a city college for at least 2½ days a week, learning shorthand, news writing, journalists' law and how to operate a desktop publishing system.

Mr Elliott says some of the staff have already received job offers from local media. An advertising representative has gone to work at Piccadilly Radio, the city's local commercial station, and editorial offers have been made by Sunset Radio, one of the new independent local radio franchises. So far, all the trainees — a third are black — have elected to complete training at *Area News*. "This is on the job training," Mr Elliott says. "It is a real paper. They know they cannot make a cock-up. Local people are absolutely chuffed. They have a paper which reflects their doings with hard news and human interest stories, while small businesses have somewhere to advertise at reasonable cost. We get people popping in with stories or

writing to us. Most local organisations are aware of us and we were recently asked to set up a school newspaper."

The youthful reporters are supervised by experienced journalists such as David Taylor, the chief reporter, and Shaun Lambert, the managing editor. Mr Lambert says: "To throw people into the deep end like this is taking a chance, and obviously some pick things up easier than others. But the high standard has surprised me. We have had some good papers, the equal of anything produced by professionals. We are encouraging them to find places with more mainstream papers, and I think a number of them will become successful in other parts of the media."

Edward Koehler, aged 20, hopes to work in television one day. "I have spoken to people who have been on other employment training schemes and they can be pretty useless. But this is great. You train as you work, which I imagine is the best way to learn journalism. I got the front page lead in

the paper's second issue, and I am proud of that."

Area News is distributed, free, to 35,000 homes throughout Moss Side, Levenshulme, Rusholme, Whalley Range, Old Trafford, and Longsight. All the trainees live within the circulation area, where unemployment is a problem — about 15 per cent of the people are out of work.

"Conventional newspapers must have felt it was not commercially viable to set up in this part of town," says Mr Elliott, who also has apprentice advertising staff on his team. "Obviously they were wrong. We are getting advertisements from local shops and national supermarkets — just the sort of mix you would get in a normal weekly."

Simon Fabe, who runs a furniture store in Whalley Range and has taken a half-page advertisement in every edition of the newspaper, says: "The paper seems to be pulling people into our shop and the advertising rate compares well with other media."

The younger members of Britain's Jewish community will soon have their own alternative *Time Out*

A NEW moon is about to rise over Britain's 350,000-strong Jewish community, with the publication of a monthly arts and current affairs magazine on September 13.

New Moon has been set up by a group of young Jewish journalists and business people, who claim that their generation is poorly served by existing publications such as the weekly *Jewish Chronicle*. *New Moon's* founders have worked or work for *Spitting*

A New Moon waxes

Image, the television programme, a range of publications including *The Sunday Times Magazine*, *Time Out* and *The Independent*, as well as Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising agency.

The magazine is targeted at the 18 to 40 age group and aims to be a national Jewish version of *Time Out*. At its core will be comprehensive

free listings of Jewish interest activities across Britain. "We felt it was time we had a publication to address our concerns and interests rather than those of our parents," said Matthew Calman, aged 29, the editor. "Our market research showed that most young Jews do not read *The Jewish Chronicle* and see it as being out of touch."

"The *Chronicle* is an important Anglo-Jewish institution and we are not in competition with it — but there is no reason why one newspaper should satisfy all the needs of the community."

New Moon's first preview edition, with a print run of 20,000, includes an interview with Woody Allen and features on Jewish prostitution

and the Jewish Film Festival. More than 500 subscribers have paid between £15 and £100 to raise £20,000 so far. Full monthly publication starts next February.

The launch of *New Moon* coincides with an editorial shake-up at *The Jewish Chronicle*. Ned Temko, aged 37, takes the editor's chair on September 3.

"I don't see *New Moon* as competition," Mr Temko said. "The more the merrier."

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MEDIA

Waging the war of words

From Henry V's speech before Harfleur to the sneers of Lord Haw-Haw and the bloodcurdling threats of Saddam Hussein, military propaganda has always been with us, George Hill reports

Alcohol is banned in Saudi Arabia, and opportunities to fraternise with the locals are limited. American servicemen thrown into the armed waiting game on the borders of Kuwait may find plenty of time on their hands to tune to Baghdad radio, where Saddam Hussein's "Lord Haw-Haw" has begun trying to woo them into despondency, with a honeyed and insinuating commentary reminiscent of the broadcasts beamed into Britain from Germany during the second world war.

This is a familiar stratagem of psychological warfare, using the soft and the hard approaches hand in hand to influence enemy forces. The broadcasts of William Joyce, "Lord Haw-Haw", were part of a campaign by Dr Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister, to undermine Britain's will to fight with a mixture of threats and blandishments. The campaign included a jazz band and a bogus "Christian pacifist" channel, in addition to Joyce's stream of compelling mockery.

In the Pacific war the Japanese tried similar methods against the Americans. "Tokyo Rose" broadcast sweet music and asked GIs: "Why are you fighting a useless war here, when civilians are being seduced by their girlfriends back at home?"

The British, too, used "soft" tactics in the Falklands war. "The Ministry of Defence requisitioned a BBC transmitter, and started a radio station called Radio Atlantic del Sur, aimed at the forces occupying the islands," says Robert Harris, author of *Gotcha*, a book about the conflict. "They transmitted news favourable

to the British, and showed off how much they knew about dispositions in the islands by presenting sentimental music as record requests by particular units."

For connoisseurs of the art of military propaganda, the events in the Gulf are already shaping up as an intriguing contest. "Both sides have been brilliantly skilful in their different ways," says Philip Knightly, the author of *The First Casualty*, a study of how truths, half-truths and lies have been deployed in war from the Crimea to Vietnam. "Western governments and media have linked Saddam's name with Hitler's and coined epithets like 'madman' or 'bunkers'. Iraq has been quick to catch up by calling George Bush a liar who is cheating his own people, and by using western hostages as a threat."

To non-Arab ears, the highly coloured rhetoric pouring from Baghdad sounds as bizarre as it is horrific, while much of the western response has been studiously laconic. But an intense calculation of audiences and effects lies behind Iraq's gleeful assertions that captured enemy pilots will be "immediately devoured", as it does behind President Bush's decision to conduct operations from the golf-course at Kennebunkport, and Mrs Thatcher's reluctance to recall parliament.

Baghdad's histrionics invoke an idiom that is likely to arouse as much contempt as fear in the West today. But they come from a time-honoured tradition. Saddam's worst menaces sound mild compared with the catalogue of threatened butchery and rape that Shakespeare's Henry



Germany calling: Lord Haw-Haw's listeners melted as Churchill's voice began to be heard

Saddam has been compared with Hitler; Iraq has said Bush is cheating his own people

V uses to force the capitulation of the city of Harfleur. In neighbouring countries to Iraq, its claim to be fighting on behalf of the whole Arab world against the western oppressor is likely to find many sympathetic hearers.

A new dimension has been given to the art of propaganda in this century with the advent of broadcasting. "It is probably true that the Iraqi people today are less isolated from outside opinion than the German people were in Hitler's day, because of the invention of the transistor radio," Knightly says. "Leaders can no longer go to war on the assumption that their people will only be able to hear their own side of the story." Outsiders find it hard to

calculate what impact the spectacle of the United Nations' swift and relatively concerted response to Saddam's aggression in Kuwait may be having on the suppressed feelings of the Iraqi population, or in its ruling circles.

By contrast, the reactions of western nations to Saddam's exploitation of westerners stranded in Iraq and Kuwait have been strong and fully visible. But it is yet to be seen whether the effect will be in Saddam's favour, as he must calculate, or against him.

While Saddam's spokesmen uninhibitedly evoke images of corpses in shrouds, and child hostages going hungry, the White House has fastidiously sought out words that do not

inflammate and are legally neutral — "interdiction" instead of "blockade". In recent days, there has been a measured escalation, not in aggressiveness but in gravity, with Mr Bush reminding Americans that "personal sacrifices" may be needed.

The techniques of rhetoric and psychological warfare can be used to bully, to deceive and to undermine. But they can also prepare a country in the face of a challenge that cannot be shirked. Lord Haw-Haw's audience in Britain was at its greatest in the early months of the "phony war", when the whole thing was still a bit of a joke. When the real conflict arrived, his listeners began to desert him, as a stronger and more credible voice began to be heard on the air — that of Churchill.

Scuppering the Aegean pirates

British companies go to law to stop a lucrative racket in TV 'signal theft'

British television companies have declared war on broadcasting piracy in Greece, where operators are being prosecuted for the first time.

After the deregulation of television in Greece, some new broadcasters are illegally using British and American material in a way that could be copied by other developing television nations.

"Signal theft" consists of broadcasting programmes illegally picked up from satellite transmissions. Both signal theft and another form of television industry piracy, which involves the transmission of standard video cassettes without first buying the rights, happen in many countries. But the British Television Distributors Association (BTDA), the independent Programme Producers Association (PPA) and the Motion Pictures Export Association of America (MPEAA) have identified Greek broadcasters as the worst culprits and are poised to mount prosecutions.

The problem is not with the state broadcasters, or the new national commercial networks Mega and Antenna, but with some of the 50 or so small regional companies, according to Justin Hatfield, a director of the distribution company RPTA Prime Time. "But it is growing generally across the world as a result of deregulation," he says. "Also, the technology is making it easier."

Eight weeks ago the BTDA set up a piracy committee to take control of the initiative, and following the employment of a local legal advisor and media monitors, three cases of alleged theft have been identified.

Survival, a programme owned by ITEL, the distribution

company used by Anglia TV, the film *Jungle Book*, for which Central TV owns the rights, and the film *Anastasia*, which is owned by an independent company named Consolidated, were all recorded broadcast illegally.

The BTDA has no idea how the companies got hold of the programmes, but the video rental business recently collapsed in Greece with the advent of the new television channels and so, according to Mr Hatfield, "there are an awful lot of spare video cassettes around that are very easy for unscrupulous people to get their hands on". One regional broadcaster has already been served with a court injunction to prevent further use of material and faces prosecution.

Other prosecutions may follow. Estimating the damage caused by pirating is difficult but, typically, an hour's broadcasting in Greece bought legitimately would cost about £1,250.

Harlan Moen, the managing director of the London office of the MPEAA, assesses losses at millions of dollars and says Greece, Portugal and the Middle East — where the home video market is 100 per cent pirate — are all culprits.

The broadcasters are anxious to make an example of Greece, although it is not a large source of revenue, because stations there want to broadcast to other countries. There is a fear that Eastern Europe, where private television companies are starting up, might try to do the same.

Fred Hasson, the deputy director at IPPA, says: "We think that Eastern Europe opening up will make things worse." He has organised a meeting in Brussels to try to get the law enforced.

EDWARD SHELTON



Hijacked: the *Jungle Book*

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A family united: Tim and Gail Williams with Robert and Imogen — every little infection has been a worry, but "the memory of that cheerless January evening is easing"

Elation, anxiety and analysis

Four years after he wrote of the loss of his daughter, Tim Williams considers theories on cot death, and how they affect parents

In November, Jessica would have been five: sticky fingers, piggy-back rides, constant questions, childish laughter on the wind. We have all these, despite her cot death. For Robert is now aged three and both playmate and adversary for seven-year-old Imogen, easing the memory of that fearful, cheerless January evening in 1986.

Since then, we have had contact with more than 100 people touched by the cold hand of cot death and its aftermath of grief, bewilderment, anger and resentment and guilt, guilt that it might have been some lapse of care that opened one's own gates of hell.

Elation at the birth of reassuringly normal Robert in 1987 was followed by anxiety, never wanting him out of our sight, declining baby-sitters for a year. And what about a breathing monitor? In the end we settled for a baby alarm (a mains-linked intercom costing less than £30), with daily weighing to confirm normal weight gain as this often tails off before illness or a cot death: such scales cost about £200, but can be borrowed or hired. At two months, Robert's weight dropped briefly but picked up when the health visitor suggested that breast-feeding may have been subconsciously affected because Jessica had died at this age. Every little infection was a worry, and on one occasion Robert became so feverish and listless, screaming if placed flat, that our fear of meningitis was only assuaged when our doctor arranged overnight hospital admission.

Many parents find the rhythmic

clicking and flashing of a breathing (apnoea) monitor reassuring. No scientific study has confirmed that home monitors prevent cot death, although there are reports of apparently life-threatening events being prevented: whether such episodes would otherwise have progressed to cot death is a moot point, and they are no longer called near-misses.

Advice on the care of the next infant (Coni) after a cot death is now available under the expanding Coni scheme, devised by the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths to help local health care professionals and provide monitors and weighing scales.

We each coped with the loss of Jessica according to our own lights, unobtrusively supported by family and friends. For my wife, there was solace in discussion and shared grief. My way was to grapple with what little is known about cot death and write of the tragedy to show others that they are not alone.

In tribute to Jessica we began a local cot death support group in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, to befriend and inform the bereaved and raise funds for research. This country has more than 100 such groups, providing an informal forum for parents to discuss their experiences and share anxieties, helping the newly bereaved through the dark days after the

funeral when normality refuses to return, sometimes for months. Doctors can help by seeing the parents at intervals to check that they are coping. Some parents become unduly protective towards all their children. Once the delicate thread of life has been inexplicably broken, the memory of its fragility persists.

Many parents find that grief erupts with every new theory about cot death. Research should be validated scientifically before receiving wide publicity, and not overplayed. The media have a moral responsibility to minimise needless hurt by checking the significance of new findings.

Another contentious area is the presence of the police at the scene of a cot death. Often this is the result of a 999 call, but even if the diagnosis of cot death has been made by a doctor the police sometimes attend, as happened with us. This appears to be at the discretion of each coroner. Since deaths from child abuse are less than 1 per cent of the figure for cot deaths, it seems inappropriate to involve the police (let alone the CID) when there is no reason to suspect non-accidental injury, which will in any case become evident at a post-mortem. Many forces now train their officers in how to handle cot

deaths, but none the less most coroners could safely restrict police attendance at the scene to those instances where there are grounds for suspicion. Just as cancer and heart disease are starting to yield their lethal secrets, so, too, will cot death. Any credible theory must explain the few known facts: cot death tends to affect children aged two to six months, especially during the winter, and there are differences in incidence between countries, although the tragedy is world-wide.

During the past 20 years, the incidence of true cot deaths (those with a post-mortem indicating sudden infant death syndrome) has remained roughly constant in the United Kingdom at slightly more than two per thousand live births, while other causes of perinatal and infant mortality have dropped dramatically. The rate is similar to that of other industrialised nations — apart from a very low incidence in Sweden (0.6 per thousand live births) and Hong Kong (0.3) — and produces 1,500 or so true cot deaths in this country each year.

As reported in *The Times* last month, there are grounds for thinking that the prone position and over-wrapping may contribute to cot death, despite the conventional wisdom that babies should be nursed on their stomachs to reduce the risk of inhaling

any vomit. The Coni recommendation is that babies should sleep on their sides and that thin blankets should be used in preference to baby nests or duvets. Clothes or wrapping should be reduced if the baby has a temperature. We do not yet know whether two-month-old Jessica died because she was swaddled and face-down in a centrally heated home, but this was the only occasion that any of our children had been placed that way. By standard criteria, she was at low risk of cot-death, though susceptible because of winter time, recent snuffles and her age.

What we do not know is that "Bright Eyes" made Jessica laugh, and the tune brings back many memories. We share them with a fuzzy photograph and a 14th century haiku ode, passed to us by another bereaved mother.

*This house hath been a fairy's dwelling place;
As the immortals pure from head to foot
Was she who stayed with us a little space,
Then, as was meet,
On her immortal journey went her way.
So wise was she, yet nothing but a flower,
Only a child — yet all the world to me;
Against the stars what love hath any power!
Or was it she
Went softly in her own appointed hour?*

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Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (071-235 1721).

Swan-song of a literary survivor

At the age of 83, Elspeth Huxley is devoting the next two years to a second Scott biography

Elspeth Huxley is embarking, at the age of 83, on what she firmly says will be her last book, a biography of the naturalist Sir Peter Scott, who died on August 29 last year.

Her literary swan-song will occupy the next two years. "I must try to stay alive and finish it," says Mrs Huxley, who makes her survival sound purely a matter of obligation to Lady Scott, Sir Peter's widow, who invited her to undertake the work. Mrs Huxley's biography of Sir Peter's father, Scott of the Antarctic, was published in 1977.

She is working on the book at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire, the home of the Wild Fowl and Wetlands Trust, which Sir Peter founded. He also established the World Wildlife Fund nearly 30 years ago.

Sir Peter's first wife, Elizabeth Jane Howard, the author, agreed to talk about the man who remained her lifelong friend. "There was simply one of many wartime marriages, which didn't work," Mrs Huxley says. Her own marriage, to Gervase Huxley, a first cousin of Aldous and Julian, spanned 40 years until his death in 1971. She has worked steadily from their Wiltshire home ever since and *Nine Faces of Kenya*, which by her own definition must be her penultimate book, will be published next month.

This anthology of more than 400 pages encompasses all manner of writings about Kenya, beginning with Pliny. Mrs Huxley's own recollections of childhood there, *The Flame Trees of Thika*, became a television series.

She is still at the research stage with the Sir Peter Scott biography and almost always at her desk by 6.30am. Any mention of a prolific, sustained output brings the retort: "I've simply lived a long time."

Mrs Huxley suggests that it is wrong to assume that the image of his explorer father, lost on his way back from the South Pole in 1912, remained the biggest influence on the young Peter Scott. Sir Peter was not born until 1909 and, she says, "the biggest influence was his mother, who had very strong views. There is a sort of legend that, instead of being wrapped up as children were at that time, Peter grew up without any clothes at all. That's not quite true — but he never wore anything more than a little tunic."

"At his prep school he was given a special dispensation to avoid school uniform and wore shorts and a shirt. That was a test of character because little boys don't like to be different."

Sir Peter's mother, born Kathleen Bruce, was a sculptor, who studied under Rodin and became Kathleen Hilton Young on her second marriage to Edward Hilton Young, the Liberal politician who fell out with Lloyd George and was destined to become a Conservative cabinet minister, and ultimately Lord Kennet. Peter would have met sitters such as George Bernard Shaw and T.E. Lawrence. His background, if not over-moneyed, was privileged and intellectual.

Mrs Huxley says that although Captain Scott left the famous letter saying, "Make the boy interested in natural history", absolutely no pressure was necessary. In his letters from primary school, written at the age of eight, there are marvellous drawings of caterpillars and a hawk-moth.

Mrs Huxley met her husband Gervase when they worked at the same government department in London. He was a grandson of Thomas Henry Huxley, the evolutionist and humanist, who coined the word "agnosticism". His cousin Aldous, the writer, was "sweet, kind and gentle, a marvellous conversationalist and not at all condescending", Mrs Huxley says. But Julian, the first director-general of Unesco, was obviously very different. "He was a very exacting guest," she says. "He would get up very early and was rather angry if there was not something to eat at a particular or precise moment. It was quite an ordeal."

Mrs Huxley has not visited Africa for three years. She says: "In my old age I obey Voltaire and cultivate my garden. It's no fun to travel alone and, anyway, I'm too old. One rather feels one has seen the best of it and enjoyed it. As you get older you lose friends. There are always changes everywhere and so there is no point in thinking changes are always bad."

SANDY BISP

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"Nine Faces of Kenya" will be published by Collins Harvill on September 20 (£16.00)



Working on: "I've simply lived a long time," Elspeth Huxley says

Floored argument

DR JAMES Dunlop, the director of public health for Hull, has issued a plea for a return to bare linoleum after too many years of carpet cover-ups. The doctor, from Kirkcaldy in Fife — which, he says, "remains the only place in Britain where linoleum is still made" — is understandably proud of it. But he argues scientifically as well as sentimentally, for the return of linoleum to fashionable homes. "As it gets older, lino matures and becomes tougher because the linseed oil it contains carries on oxidising, forming new chemical links with the other constituents," he says. "This oxidation also makes the linoleum slightly bactericidal, making it extremely useful in hospitals. Lino also appears to have an effect on house dust mites, fleas, and so on. This therefore reduces the tendency towards asthma in susceptible people, as does the fact that it does not release fibres into the atmosphere."

Wholly writ

THE Whole Thing catalogue, originally featured on these pages as "not quite the whole thing", because it seemed to be full of gimmicky gadgets for the greenish-tinted, has discontinued some of its more silly items. The new catalogue focuses on the useful basics such as cleaning materials, recycled paper products, energy-saving lightbulbs and fungicide-free wallpaper paste and paints. It has introduced a "green index" after each item, with little symbols indicating "manufacture and packaging", "use", "health", "disposal" and "effort" (indicating the effort to which the manufacturer has gone to become green). Each product is graded. The only problem is

that the grading system is not exactly impartial, as all the products contained in the catalogue are naturally given a high rating by the catalogue itself. One brand of juicer, costing nearly £300, receives a low two points out of five in the "use" category — and surely anyone with pretensions of greenness would think twice before using a high-powered electrical machine to squeeze their organic oranges. The Whole Thing catalogue, printed on recycled paper, is available free from The Whole Thing, Millmead Business Centre, Millmead Road, London N17 9QU (081-365 1620).

Wall flowers

NOW is your chance to pick up a work by an as-yet-unrecognised genius for a song. From today until August 31 the work of artists from five of London's top art colleges (Goldsmiths, the Royal College of Art, the Slade and the Chelsea School of Art) will be displayed at the Mall Galleries, 17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1. "The most difficult time in an artist's career is the transition from art college to making a living," says the Federation of British Artists, which has arranged the exhibition, intended to help with that transition. So this is an excellent opportunity to discover something that might fill that glaring gap on the wall while marking you out as a perceptive patron of the arts. The exhibition, called Into the Nineties 2, will be open daily from 10am until 5pm.

Cell walls

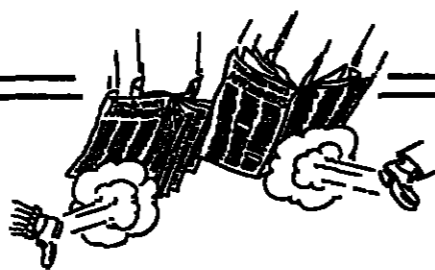
DO children really want a hard sell about how their cells work? Dr Fran Balkwill and

& BRIEFLY

what they can do to ensure their cells are healthy enough to fight off such threats. They are admirable works, each available in paperback for £4.95 and paperback for £2.95, but it is difficult to make either *Cells Are Us* or *Cell Wars* (with their pictures of skeletons, viruses and children with tummy bugs) seem attractive bedtime reading.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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TELEVISION

Poison penalty

IN THE dog days of summer, when a documentary is usually all one still there outside the newsroom making programmes, *Viewpoint 90* (ITV) came up with a terrifying study of chemical weaponry in "Fog of War". Even if we had not known of Saddam Hussein's gas attacks on Iran and Kurdistan, this story would have been terrible enough.

Though outlawed by a Geneva Convention of 1925, by which time 100,000 people had already died of mustard gas in the first world war, chemical weapons are now produced by 20 nations, most of which admit that they cannot be accurately targeted, so if you happen to live anywhere downwind of an attack you could be as easily destroyed as any intended victim.

Mike Rossiter's film for Central unearths pre-war Popeye cartoons and sordid 1930s newsreel warnings of the death bombs that were used by Mussolini in Abyssinia, though the latter very seldom until Vietnam brought nerve gas into fashion after nearly three decades of deterrent-only caution. Two years ago, Saddam bombed 65 Kurdish towns and villages with mustard cyanide, some of it derived from West Germany where the world's largest chemical industry is now under limited and nervous investigation.

A lethal mixture of stupidity, corruption and ruthlessness has allowed a new generation of technology mercenaries to put together chemical deals which allow the weapons still to be manufactured more than half a century after Geneva.

In the United States, politicians admit that the 1984 agreement to outlaw chemical warfare was largely a device to allow senators to vote for the continuation of binary chemical weapons as deterrents, while no one has yet found an even halfway effective method of disposing of them. In this country, where we stopped making gas bombs 30 years ago, acres of poisoned earth are still cordoned off as unfit for human or animal occupation, and fishermen regularly catch old bombs in their nets, still leaking their poison.

As a result, the chemical warfare apparently outlawed in 1925 will be well with us by 2025, and getting rid of its traces could take another century after that.

OVER ON Channel 4, *The Thatcher Audit* is a new series of three documentaries designed as a curtain-raiser to the general election campaign, which will doubtless start with this autumn's party conferences. In the first of these, John Pender looked back over the last ten years of supply-side reforms, starting with the ritual Thatcher-montage of podium photo-opportunities and soundbites. One day, they will themselves have to be the subject of a special survey, starting with the influence of Christopher Fry and Noel Coward on speech-writing hacks responsible for "the lady's not for turning" and "this beloved nation of ours".

Pender was concerned with three specific areas of recent Tory history: privatisation, the assault on union power, and the credit boom that went bust. On the first, he reckoned that the taxpayer had forked out £4.5 billion to be able to sell off British Steel for £2.5 billion. On the second, he decided that Tebbit had done pretty well versus Scargill, and on the third he was suitably appalled by the fact that Victorian Values would seem not to include that of thrift, hence the current debt crisis.

His main thesis was that nothing over the last ten years has been quite what it seemed: privatisation has been not the cause but the consequence of higher productivity and profits in British Steel; the taxpayer has financed improvements in commercial balance sheets; and privatisation has been the victim rather than the beneficiary of the new accountability. Moreover, if a privatised company chairman is now accountable to two million shareholders, then he is not really accountable to anyone of them. Popular capitalism is thus a contradiction in terms, while home ownership has led to vastly increased home debt.

The first *Thatcher Audit*, therefore, concluded that privatisation has not been of much help to economic efficiency, that union-bashing has not cured inflation, and that the housing and credit fiasco has scuttled a climate of enterprise. The only real change has been that the culture is now that of the casino. This is an *Audit* unlikely to be read to shareholders at the next Tory party conference: any other business?

SHERIDAN MORLEY

POP MUSIC

Back to the brilliance of Bacharach

Anyone who has a heart, including a new generation of British youngsters, is still falling for the magical Sixties music of Burt Bacharach, Barney Hoskyns says

Sitting in his palatial Bel Air mansion looking over Los Angeles, Burt Bacharach must find British youth's current, slightly bizarre love affair with his music rather amusing. He is, after all, 62 years old and the kind of man more likely to be throwing a party for Elizabeth Taylor than grooving the night away to the latest dance-floor version of one of his classic Sixties songs for Dionne Warwick.

Since 1964, when Cilla Black, Dusty Springfield, and Sandie Shaw all hit big with Burt Bacharach/Hal David songs (respectively "Anyone who had a Heart", "I just don't know what to do with myself", and "Always Something There to Remind Me"), the British have had a soft spot for this almost mythical figure.

Along with Phil Spector and Tamla Motown, he helped define the pop sensibility of the Sixties. Everyone from Tom Jones to the Walker Brothers leapt aboard the Bacharach bandwagon. But until recently he hardly registered with young pop punters, if his name evoked any image at all, it was that of a middle-aged, middle-of-the-road handleader of the Bert Kaempfert variety. Cool it was not.

Now, though, there is fresh evidence that Bacharach is again an influence — from the unlikely direction of the Scottish rock band Deacon Blue. Currently high in the charts with the prosaically-titled EP *Four Bacharach & David Songs*, they are typical of an Eighties generation of hip, historically aware pop stars who see past the easy-listening image to the beauty and sophistication of songs like "Message to Michael" and "Are You There (with another girl)", both recorded originally by Dionne Warwick.

In the hands of Deacon Blue's frontman, Ricky Ross, "I'll Never Fall in Love Again" proves as adaptable to Nineties radio pop as "My Little Red Book" did to the garage-band psychosis of Love in 1966 or "A House is not a Home" to the baritone vocal improvisations of Luther Vandross in 1982.

"I think the greatest songs are great love songs," Ross says, "and to me the combination of Bacharach and David produced the greatest love songs ever written." Born in Kansas City in 1928, Burt Bacharach grew up in New

York. He studied with serious composers such as Henry Cowell, Darius Milhaud and the Czech Bohuslav Martinu by day, and with his music rather amusing. He is, after all, 62 years old and the kind of man more likely to be throwing a party for Elizabeth Taylor than grooving the night away to the latest dance-floor version of one of his classic Sixties songs for Dionne Warwick.

It was after meeting the lyricist Hal David in 1957, that Bacharach began writing the series of hits for Marty Robbins, Perry Como, Gene Pitney, and eventually black artists such as Warwick, Jerry Butler, Chuck Jackson — which would make him one of the most successful writer-producers of the Sixties.

"Don't be afraid of writing something people can remember and whistle," a music tutor is said to have told the young Bacharach. Whether the fledgling genius took the advice to heart is debatable, since many of his greatest songs are far from being the ephemeral, whistle-along pap that passed for pop then and in years to come.

"You've practically got to be a music major to sing Bacharach," Dionne Warwick once remarked. Logging the time-changes in a song such as "Promises, Promises" — from 3/4 to 4/4, 5/4, 6/4, 3/8, 4/8 and back again — obliges one to agree with her.

The simple fact is that Bacharach and David were a generation older than the other "Teen Pan Alley" teams who created the dominant rhythm and blues sound of the late Fifties and early Sixties. Their songs had more in common with Rodgers and Hart than with the Ronettes.

Bacharach quickly found the Brill Building conveyor-belt system stifling. The company A&R men used to be really omnipotent," he told *Newsweek* in 1970. "They'd say 'This is a three-bar phrase. Make it a four-bar phrase and I'll get so-and-so to record your song.' I ruined some pretty good songs that way, because I believed them."

When he and Hal David heard Dionne Warwick singing backing vocals on a Drifters recording session, they knew they had found the perfect voice — cool, brittle, showbizzy rather than gospelly — for their hybrid pop-soul, com-



Burt Bacharach, Sixties style: the bandwagon is still rolling, and picking up a host of new young admirers, including Deacon Blue

positions; songs that did not play barefacedly to the short attention spans of American teenagers. "Don't make me over" (1963) was the first masterpiece, followed by "Anyone who had a Heart", "Walk on By", "I say a Little Prayer" and more than 20 other hits in seven years. These were songs of delicacy and intricacy, with rhythms dictated by Warwick's phrasing rather than vice versa, and melodies that underwent radical shifts and changes.

The Bacharach/David run of hits reached its apex at the end of the Sixties, when the soundtrack to *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* won two Oscars and two Grammys. Bacharach's solo LP *Reach Out* (1968) was selling well, the hit musical *Promises, Promises* ran well on Broadway, NBC presented a Bacharach television special. Nobody could have guessed that all this would preface a decade without a single Bacharach hit — a decade, moreover, in which his dream marriage

to the actress Angie Dickinson would fall apart. By 1980 he looked washed-up. Then he bounced back. With Carole Bayer Sager, who became his second wife in 1982, he co-wrote the Oscar-winning theme song from *Arthur*, produced the superb Parti Labelle/Michael McDonald duet "On My Own", and hooked up once more with Dionne Warwick. Songs have followed for Gladys Knight, Natalie Cole, Neil Diamond and Roberta Flack, while Hal David has kept up his profile writing with hit-makers like Albert Hammond. Earlier this year Bacharach was at Radio City Music Hall, playing the piano while a cast including Warwick, Aretha Franklin and Whitney Houston gathered to sing "That's what friends are for".

He remains an active, gracefully ageing presence on the American music scene, and in Britain his back catalogue provides a well-spring of sublime songs for everyone from Deacon Blue to the dance-floor guru Tim Simenon. The Bacharach magic clearly still moves anyone who has a heart.



Deacon Blue: inspired by the sublime well-spring of Bacharach

CINEMA

Peter Guttridge traces the troubled history of director Jack Nicholson's *The Two Jakes*

The movie that became a monster

is probably a film to be made about the production history of *The Two Jakes*, which was set to shoot in 1985, 11 years after Polanski made what is widely regarded as the perfect detective thriller: *Chinatown*. That classic received 11 Academy Award nominations; writer Robert Towne's script has become a set text for would-be dialogue writers, and the role of J.J. "Jake" Gittes now seems a perfect blend of Nicholson as star and actor.

Nicholson's own loyalty to the film has precluded his playing any other detective since. "This is a kind of special theatrical covenant," he once said.

Towne intended *Chinatown* to be the first in a triptych of Proustian ambition, about the development of Los Angeles. He set *The Two Jakes* in 1947 and focused the plot on land development and oil discovery (water rights was the theme of *Chinatown*). An intricate film noir, it continues the theme of the futility

of good intentions begun in *Chinatown*.

The Two Jakes was to be produced by *Chinatown* producer Robert Evans, written and directed by Towne and, of course, to star Nicholson. The three were close friends. Towne and Nicholson had met in 1959 when Nicholson, after a spell in the cartoon department of MGM answering mail for Tom and Jerry, was attending acting classes and writing Zen-influenced screenplays. But the 1985 attempt to film *The Two Jakes* collapsed when Towne — on the day shooting was to start — refused to accept that producer Evans (a former actor) could play the part of the second Jake. Nicholson sided with Evans, Paramount pulled the plug, and Towne's friendship with Evans was over.

Legal and financial squabbles went on for four years. Nicholson, loyal to his friends, was looking for a way for all three men to remain involved, and he was the

one who brought the film back to life, by agreeing to direct: what he calls "a collective compromise". He had directed twice before — an early 1970s art film, *Drive, He Said*, and a mid-1970s comedy-Western *Goin' South*. But he was understandably reluctant. "When you're making the second part to a brilliant movie by one of the greatest movie-makers in the world, your own good sense tells you that if you do half that well, you've done a good job. But it is difficult, there's no real advantage in it, and it's an imposing thing for anyone."

Nicholson was faced with a complex script that required a firm grasp of narrative, never his strong point. He told the *Los Angeles Times* in 1985: "Cinema is a visual poetic form. I have a lousy narrative sense and feel like I'm more of a poetic director." Before filming started, Towne spent six months rewriting the script he had hoped to direct himself. Then, according to Nicholson's friends, he left Nicholson in the lurch to write the screenplay for *Days of Thunder*.

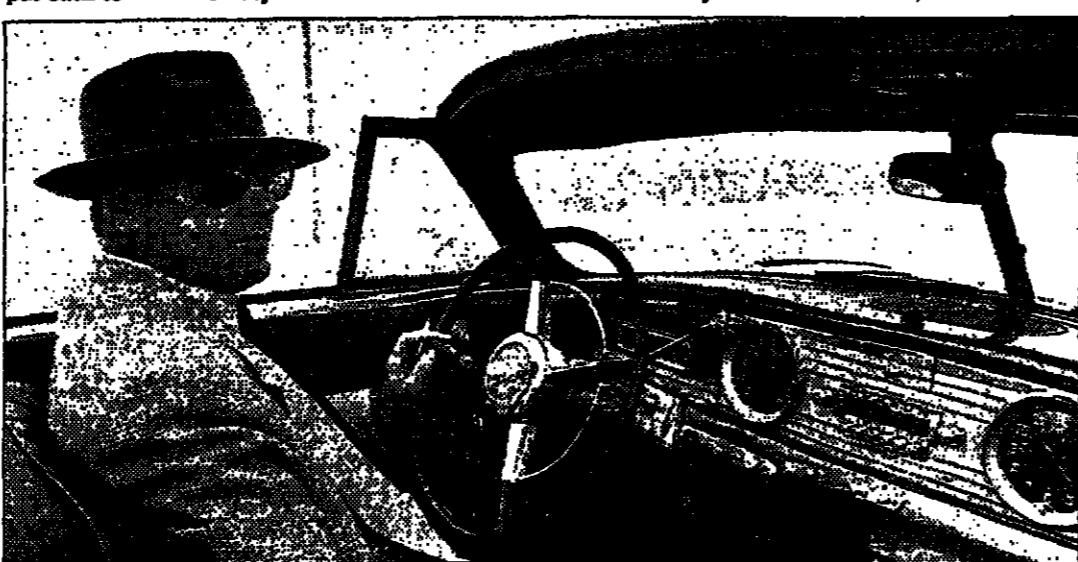
"We didn't have a beginning and we didn't have an ending," Nicholson has said. "We did shoot the original ending, but it didn't work. But then, the film changed so much during shooting." Certainly, in the last few weeks of filming in July 1989, there was scrambling to revise the script overnight. Nicholson did these rewrites, often getting only an hour's sleep between his night and his day job. "He gave it his blood and his sweat," says Harvey Keitel, who plays the second Jake. Nevertheless, the production came in on schedule and within its \$20 million budget. Then the delays began. The film should have opened in America last December to make it an Oscar contender, but Paramount announced a postponement until

Easter because the film was not ready. Nicholson had apparently screened a rough cut, which at 168 minutes was too long for the studio's liking. Second and third cuts whittled the time down to 140 minutes.

The film then missed its Easter opening. Early preview screenings had indicated that some audiences found the film dense and confusing. To simplify the story, Faye Dunaway (who played a major

part in *Chinatown*) was called in to read the voice-over of a letter. The delays did not help the film; the assumption was that Nicholson had made a mess of it. He has not. The film is dense, and almost a meditation on the first film. Many scenes echo scenes from the first, minor characters re-appear, and there are two rapid flashbacks. It looks magnificent, and Nicholson gives a real performance.

Whether or not the film succeeds, it will not be the last one Nicholson directs. His next project is likely to be another long-cherished idea, about the imagined murder of Napoleon. A script has been knocking around since the early 1980s — written by Robert Towne.



Having a rough ride in the driving seat: Jack Nicholson, the star and director of *The Two Jakes*

CRITICS' CHOICE: OPERA, DANCE AND MIXED MEDIA

LONDON OPERA

TOSCA: Flashed with success from the Russian tour, the ENO open the new season with a revival of Jonathan Miller's Fascist-period *Tosca*. The rising star Jane Eaglen tackles the title role, David Rendall is Cavaradossi, and the performance is conducted by Marco Guidarelli. London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), tomorrow and Sat, 8pm, £5-£37.50.

KATYA KABANOVA: The celebrated Glyndebourne production of Janáček's powerful opera comes to the Proms. Nancy Gustafson (title role) and Felicity Lister repeat their memorable performances. Andrew Davis conducts. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-623 9988), Fri, 7.30pm, £3.50-£16.

OUTSIDE LONDON

PRINCE IGOR: The Slovak National Opera and Ballet from Bratislava bring four big productions to Edinburgh. Both halves of the company will more than earn their fee in Borodin's epic, the Polovtsian dances will be given in Fokine's original choreography. The conductor is Oliver Dohnányi. Playhouse Theatre, Edinburgh (031-225 5755), tonight and tomorrow, 7pm, £5-£17.50.

FALSTAFF: Last performance of Peter Hall's production of Verdi's comedy, with Andrew Shore as the well-upholstered knight. Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 541111), tonight, 5.30pm, £30-£75.

FALSTAFF: Production of Gounod's perennial favourite by the Slovak

National Opera and Ballet. See review on page 18. Playhouse Theatre (as above), Fri and Sat, 7pm, £5-£17.50.

DANCE

SWAN LAKE: Final days of English National Ballet's summer season. Natalia Makarova's production slims down the action and the drama. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-628 8800), tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats tomorrow, Sat, 2.30pm, £5-£25.

SLOVAK STATE BALLET: The company plays a prominent part in the Slovak Opera's *Faust* and *Prince Igor* (see opera listings).

AMERICAN INDIAN DANCE THEATRE: Authentic traditional dances and music gathered and

translated into a theatrical context. King's Theatre, Edinburgh (as above), Tomorrow-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £5-£25.50.

THE OVERCOAT: Rudolf Nureyev in a made-to-measure role by Flemming Flindt based on Gogol's tragicomic story. With the Cleveland San José Ballet, who also dance their own showpieces *Quicksilver*. Playhouse, Edinburgh (031-225 5755), From Tue, eves 7.30pm (not Sun), mats Wed, 2.30pm, £5-£16.50. Until August 30.

JOHN PERCIVAL

MARCEL MARCEAU & COMPANY: Marcel Marceau, the living legend of mime, in the last few days of his 15th London season.

Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats tomorrow, Sat, 2.30pm, £4-£14.

FRAGMENTS — CRAZY MIME: Czechoslovakian clown Petr Turek animates the struggle of everyday life between men and women. Richard Demarco Gallery (Venue 22), 17-21 Blackfriars Street, Edinburgh (031-557 0707) From Mon, eves (not Sun), 6pm, £4 (£4) Until Sept 1.

BOBBY BAKER: Drawing on a *Mother's Experience*. A one-night opportunity in the Edinburgh Fringe to see this well-received show which takes a wry look at the difficulties of motherhood. Richard Demarco Gallery (as above), Mon, 10.15pm, £4 (£3).

CHISLAINE BODDINGTON

ENTERTAIN IN STYLE AT THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS ARTS FESTIVAL EVER STAGED IN BRITAIN

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE MOZART
BICENTENARY FESTIVAL
DECEMBER 5 1990 - JANUARY 5 1991

Launched with a Gala Concert at The Royal Festival Hall, the festival will include performances by leading concert orchestras and opera companies in many of the country's most prestigious venues throughout December 1990 and January 1991.

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FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

By HARVEY ELLIOTT,
CORRESPONDENT

The new fares will raise the cost of flying from London to Glasgow by £5 to £87.

● Mrs Mandela's post: Winnie Mandela, the controversial wife of Nelson Mandela, has been named head of the ANC's social welfare operations. (AP)

Photograph, page 9
Leading article, page 11



Continued from page 1

Demand for NBC suits from the three British companies licensed to make them coincides with concern from scientists about their usefulness in Saudi Arabia, where the temperature in the

He added that so-called auto-injectors used to administer antidote to a victim were "more morale-boosters than life-savers". Death from heat stress in the suits, which weigh 5lbs, would be likely within a limited number of hours.

In a letter to staff dated August 13, a copy of which has been obtained by *The Times*, BAe said that employees face a greater danger from dehydration in equipment including an MK 4 suit, S10 respirator, gloves and boots than from chemical warfare.

Abdulsaziz air base, Dhahran, tells employees not to do physical work unless it is urgent, to drink regularly and to watch for "signs and symptoms from birds, dogs and other people" if under attack.

None of the three manufacturers would discuss the protective clothing. A reliable source in the industry said that defence ministry stores had been sufficiently maintained to supply "the whole British Army" before the crisis began at the start of the month. The suits normally cost up to £200.

FROM MICHAEL BINYON
IN BRUSSELS

The commission urges the beginning of the second phase of EMU on January 1 1993. During this phase the Eurofed, a European central bank, should be set up. This must be fully independent of national governments, but also democratically accountable. The commission should be an

ACROSS

- 1 Tiny creature makes vet lose heart (6).
- 4 In fight, not having to lose consciousness (5,3).
- 10 It's cruel using spur endlessly on horse (9).
- 11 The old note part of speech that's about the close of life (5).
- 12 Leader showing panic at disorder (7).
- 13 Silver involved in bizarre offence (7).
- 14 Grub in spectacular variety (5).
- 15 During walk, girl is open to suggestion (8).
- 18 A couple rented jewelry (8).
- 20 Yellow flowers in a ring around window (5).
- 23 Content if stays are tight (7).
- 25 Gypsy holds information about

one fighting in the ring (7).

- 26 Hunter bags head of oryx, reebok and impala outside Nairobi (5).
- 27 Love girl to win a second time (4,5).
- 28 _____ and I about to be beset by attractive fly (4,4).
- 29 Cave comes to mind (6).

DOWN

- 1 How stupid am I, to be keeping rising parasites (8).
- 2 Bow's used the wrong way by fiddler (7).
- 3 Accident almost involving foreigner's vehicle (9).
- 5 Get cross, having seen some petrol spilt (4,4,6).
- 6 Measure how to make ten thousand, say (5).

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 40 percent of the competitors at the 1990 London A Regional final of The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship.

with a little rain or drizzle. Cloud breaks should develop away from western coasts and hills with the best of the sunshine in eastern areas. Northern Ireland and south-west Scotland will be rather cloudy with a little rain. The rest of Scotland will be mainly dry with a few showers in the north-west. Outlook: dry but cloudy in south, some rain elsewhere.

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun;
sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

[illegible]

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C F
Stoughton	10.7	.02	19 66

[illegible]

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

POMAK
a. Apple brandy
b. An Amerindian tribe
c. A Muslim Bulgar

WABI
a. An attractive flaw
b. A dried-up watercourse
c. Samurai's code of honour

ECAD
a. Ecologically adapted
b. A lower-class cad
c. Fallen matter

SEI
a. An old Japanese coin
b. A musical instruction
c. A whale

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C. London (within N & S Circa.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Carlford T.	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23 J34	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).	

Concise Crossword, page 13

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 23C (73F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 15C (59F). Humidity: 6 pm, 61 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 8.3 hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1,024.7 millibars, rising.

Monday: Highest day temp: Thorney Island, West Sussex, 22C (72F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 12C (54F); highest rainfall: Cromer, Norfolk, 1.89 in; highest sunshine: Norwich, Norfolk, 11.9 hr.

GLASGOW

TOWER BRIDGE

7.15pm, 10pm and 11pm

Continued from page 1

disgruntled SPD deputies could call for a vote on immediate reunification today. The head of the SPD faction in parliament, Richard Schröder, said that he was resigning his post. He was among those faction leaders who reached the compromise with the prime minister, but said he was resigning because of the SPD's decision on Sunday to pull out of the government coalition.

The ultra-conservative German Social Union said it would push for immediate reunification unless the SPD support a German unity treaty currently under negotiation. Herr de Maizière has insisted that unity should come only after approval of the treaty. The fate of that treaty is clouded by the collapse of Herr de Maizière's broad coalition government on Sunday and by deep differences on key passages of the document.

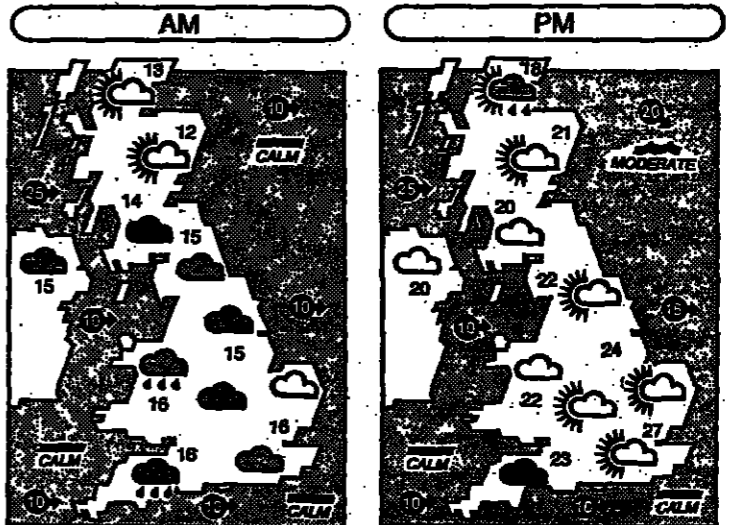
According to the compromise, the Volkskammer will meet in special session on October 9, the anniversary of the first mass pro-democracy demonstrations in Leipzig that eventually toppled the communist regime. At that session, the parliament will vote to merge with West Germany, effective on October 14. East German state elections are to be held the same day.

Herr de Maizière said the special parliament session will give lawmakers a final opportunity to "deal with our past and our future". He said the compromise allowed the debate on unity to "regain a certain amount of dignity."

The West German government welcomed the decision. "This timetable will allow us to complete the requirements for an orderly path toward unity," said the chief government spokesman.

Hans Klein. Meanwhile, thousands of East German public service employees staged lightning strikes on Tuesday to press demands for pay rises, paralysing bus, underground railway and tram services in East Berlin.

● **BRUSSELS:** The European Commission will take on temporary emergency powers to allow it to implement European Community legislation in a united Germany the day after unification, Jacques Delors, the Commission president, said yesterday (Michael Binwon writes).



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 8.09 pm to 5.58 am
Bristol 8.19 pm to 6.08 am
Edinburgh 8.33 pm to 5.59 am
Manchester 8.23 pm to 6.02 am
Penzance 8.28 pm to 6.23 am

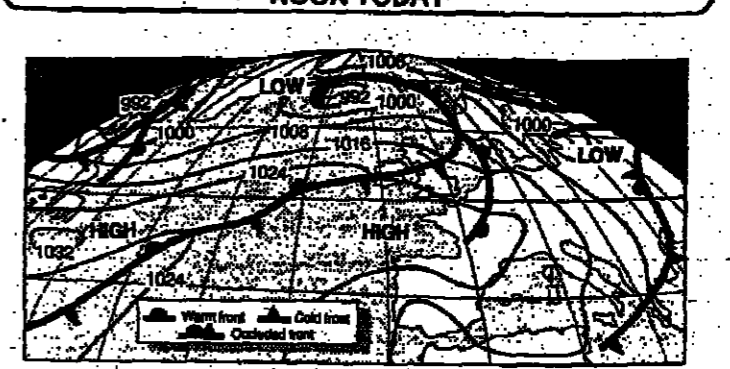
YESTERDAY

	C	F		C	F
West	17	63c	Greenwich	18	64c
Warrington	18	64c	Leamington	15	59c
Walspool	16	61c	Jersey	19	66c
Widnes	19	66f	London	21	70f
Widley	19	66c	Wichster	16	61d
Widburgh	18	61r	Newcastle	16	61c
Widnes	14	57d	Sheffield	16	61c

HIGH TIDES

[illegible]

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-25
● DEGREE COURSE VACANCIES 33-35
● SPORT 36-40

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 22 1990

City Editor
John Bell

Co-founder quits Hazlewood board

DENNIS Jones, a co-founder of Hazlewood Foods, has quit the board of the company after his name was not put forward for re-election at the annual meeting in Derby.

Peter Barr, the chairman and the other man behind Hazlewood's meteoric growth during the past 15 years, said because of a recent illness Mr Jones had been unable to give an assurance to the board that he would be able to devote all his time to the company.

The illness followed a "technical omission" made in the listing particulars of an Irish property company, Seafield, of which Mr Jones had also been a director, said Mr Barr.

Mr Jones was criticised by his fellow directors at Seafield after he failed to reveal a £1.28 million payment he received, which he has since repaid, in the listing particulars.

Nadir quizzed

Asil Nadir, the chairman and biggest shareholder of Polly Peck, was asked by the Stock Exchange committee on quotations yesterday why he withdrew his bid approach for the group so abruptly on Friday. The interview is one of a series the committee has conducted over two days to determine the events leading to the withdrawal which wiped 25 per cent from the value of the stock.

Comment, page 23

Willis ahead

Willis Faber, the insurance broker planning a £1.1 billion merger with Corroon & Black in America, reported a 33 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £57.7 million in the first half, despite the sluggish insurance market.

Temps, page 23

Hickson slips

Hickson International, the chemicals and merchant distributors group, has reported a 10 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £18.3 million for the first half of 1990. The interim dividend is increased by 9 per cent to 2.85p.

Temps, page 23

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9210 (+0.0030)
W German mark
2.9900 (-0.0015)
Exchange index
95.8 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1615.7 (-43.8)
FT-SE 100
2108.1 (-48.5)
New York Dow Jones
2609.18 (-47.28)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
26297.84 (-192.63)
Closing Prices ... Page 25

Major indices and major changes

Page 22

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank 15-14 3/4%
5-month interbank 14 1/4-14 1/2%
US: Prime Rate: 10%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7 5/8-7 5/16%
30-year bonds 8 1/4-8 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.9210
DM: £1.9221
Sfr: £1.9221
¥: £1.9221
FF: £1.9221
Lira: £1.9221
Pound: £1.9221
Dollar: £1.9221
Mark: £1.9221
Franc: £1.9221
Yen: £1.9221
Pound: £1.9221
Dollar: £1.9221
Mark: £1.9221
Franc: £1.9221
Yen: £1.9221

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$407.35 pm \$413.80
close \$413.75-414.25 (£215.25-215.75)
New York:
Comex \$406.20-406.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep) ... \$29.00 bbl (\$29.05)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ 2,465
Austria Sch 2,305
Belgium F 2,145
Canada \$ 2,145
Denmark Kr 1,145
France F 1,145
Germany DM 2,145
Greece Dr 1,145
Hong Kong \$ 2,145
Ireland Ir 1,145
Japan Yen 2,145
Netherlands Gld 2,145
New Zealand \$ 2,145
Portugal Esc 2,145
South Africa R 2,145
Spain Ptas 2,145
Sweden S 2,145
Switzerland Fr 2,145
Turkey Lira 2,145
USA \$ 2,145
Yugoslavia Din 2,145

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rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 125.8 (July)

UK needs years of austerity, says OECD

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE British economy faces years of austerity if long-term inflationary pressures are to be removed, according to a report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

In a generally gloomy review of underlying economic trends, economists at the Paris group say there is no sign that the rise in inflation has been firmly stopped. The government faces a bigger challenge of bringing down inflation permanently even if the latest rise in prices is tempered.

"This will call for a tight stance of macroeconomic policies for the foreseeable future," says the report.

The government is criticised for letting the public

sector debt repayment fall to virtually zero, discounting assets sales.

The OECD blames tax cuts for part of the revival in inflation and says fiscal policy will need to reinforce monetary policy more strongly, especially if sterling joins the exchange-rate mechanism of the EMS. The report favours early ERM entry because the medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) — the framework of policy for the past decade — "lacks a sufficiently credible anchor for monetary policy" due to the progressive abandonment of monetary targets.

The OECD implies that the usefulness of the MTFS has been undermined by the failure to come to grips with

inflation. Swift entry into the ERM could therefore be justified even before inflation has been brought nearer continental levels, because this could help cut ingrained inflationary expectations on pay.

The report is relatively optimistic about growth, forecasting a rise from 1 to 2 per cent next year because of buoyant demand for exports.

Differing forecasts (% rise)

	OECD 1990	1991	Treasury 1990
Gross domestic product (rise)	1.00	2.00	1.00
Private consumption	1.00	1.50	1.25
Government consumption	0.75	1.00	0.25
Private investment	-1.25	0.75	-2.0
Public investment	4.00	4.50	3.75
Exports	7.50	6.75	7.25
Consumer prices (underlying)	6.75	6.00	n/a
Unemployment rate (%)	6.75	6.5	n/a
Balance of payments deficit	£17.5bn	£14bn	£15bn

deficit is expected to remain much higher than the chancellor has predicted.

The credit squeeze has had only limited success, says the OECD, because domestic output has dropped, as has consumer demand.

"The overall balance between domestic demand and supply has not yet improved much," the report concludes.

"On present policies, the re-balancing process of the economy is likely to continue, though at a slow pace."

Britain's balance of payments deficit is also a more central problem than the government admits, the report suggests. With the heavy outflow of long-term portfolio investment, this makes Britain dependent on attracting volatile short-term money. Even

after entry into the ERM, therefore, there may well be a risk premium on sterling that will require higher interest rates than in other member countries, even if high rates were not needed for domestic monetary policy.

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, said: "The OECD's forecasts demonstrate the extent of Britain's domestic economic problems, problems that are entirely of the government's making."

"The report leaves no scope for the government to blame its economic failings on the Gulf crisis and shows how poorly placed Britain is to cope with the economic consequences."

Comment, page 23
Perils of hot money, page 23

Shooting war rumour sends shares reeling

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES had a rough ride yesterday after rumours of shooting in the Gulf, later denied, wiped billions of pounds off nervous markets round the world within minutes.

Shortly before 10 am, dealers heard a rumour that an American jet had been shot down by an Iraqi missile. The FT-SE index of 100 leading shares plummeted by more than 44 points despite a denial of the rumour by the BBC World Service and by the American authorities within half an hour.

The index closed, down 48.5 on the day at 2,108.1, the market's biggest daily fall since last October 16. The plunge knocked almost £9 billion off the value of listed companies.

One dealer said: "The market is being undermined by fears the US is moving closer and closer to war with Iraq. No one wants to buy."

Selling pressure, however, remained relatively light with 411 million shares traded.

Gifts lost about half a point as the prospect of lower interest rates faded.

It was the same story in Paris, Milan and Frankfurt, where German shares hit a 1990 low.

Heightened Middle East tension saw the London gold price rise to \$414.25 an ounce

at one stage, though profit-taking left gold at \$414 for a \$4.25 rise on the day.

Dealers said the market was nervous because of the fast-changing situation, which was compounded by producer selling. Silver rose in sympathy and closed 2.5p higher at 271.25p an ounce. Platinum was \$3.50 up at \$503.25 an ounce.

Sterling, driven by its high interest rate attraction, safe haven factors, and its residual petrodollar status, closed at \$1.9215 in London, slightly up from Monday's \$1.9195 close.

The pound also remained firm against the mark to close at DM2.9917 against Monday's DM2.9903 close. Sterling's trade-weighted index closed at 95.8, unchanged from Monday's close.

American financial markets traded nervously on increasing speculation of a war in the Middle East, which provided volatile trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 31.9 points at 2624.5 points in early afternoon trading, after falling over 75 points earlier in the day, triggering New York Stock Exchange circuit breakers.

Events in the Middle East continued to drive spot and future prices of crude oil. In London, October Brent, which opened at \$27.38 a

barrel, breached \$28 barrel, although prices fell back to around \$27.50 in later trading.

The prospect of increased oil production from Saudi Arabia to partly offset the loss of crude from Iraq and Kuwait failed to halt the surge forward.

Stephen Turner, an analyst of Smith New Court, said: "We had always assumed that Opec would increase production. What the market is asking is not whether the Saudis can increase production but whether there will be a war."

In Rotterdam, spot gasoline prices rose another \$10 to \$400 a tonne, an 11-year high. Spot prices have risen by 25 per cent in one week and by 55 per cent since Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, easily outpacing a 36 per cent increase in the price of Brent crude.

In New York, oil futures had topped the \$29 a barrel level but in early afternoon trading the West Texas Intermediate was down 51 cents a barrel at \$28.05.

The US bond market was chaotic with the yield on the 30-year treasury bond reaching the 9 per cent mark for the first time since May before running slightly to trade at 8.9 per cent yields in early afternoon trading.

Stock markets, page 22

Dunsdale cash find by receivers

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE liquidators at Dunsdale Securities, the collapsed investment firm, have discovered another £600,000 of investors' money to bring the total amount traced close to £1 million.

The additional funds come from two loans of £400,000 and £200,000 made by Dunsdale. The liquidators are uncertain whether they can recover the money.

Dunsdale's former investors were told the news at a creditors meeting in the West End yesterday, when Harold Sorsky of Sorsky Defries and Ray Hocking of Stoy Hayward were confirmed as joint liquidators.

Mr Sorsky said he is searching for a total of up to £6 million invested in the company which is untraced.

He added that the liquidators are now planning to pursue claims against Dunsdale's advisers, including its banks.

Trump rescue plan receives approval

FROM JOHN DUNN IN NEW YORK

DONALD Trump, the embattled New York property developer, yesterday received final approval for his refinancing package, aimed at giving him time to sell down his assets, when the New Jersey Casino Control Commission agreed a loan bail-out package that included \$65 million in new loans and suspension of interest payments on \$850 million in other loans.

The commission decision was needed as the bank deal required extra security over Mr Trump's casino interests in Atlantic City.

Mr Valerie Armstrong, the commission's chairwoman, said the board approved the debt plan with "severe reservations" adding "this is not a total solution".

Mr Trump is due to make a \$47 million payment to bondholders of his \$1.3 billion Taj Mahal casino resort. While he has welcomed the decision, he

Roof caves in on girder cartel

By DEREK HARRIS
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THREE national suppliers of steel roofing sections used in commercial buildings are being taken to the restrictive practices court for operating a secret cartel to share out markets and fix prices.

Alleged covert deals were struck between Ayrshire Metal Products (Dawson) of Irvine, Ayrshire; Metal Sections of Oldbury, West Midlands, part of the Metsec group; and Ward Building Systems, based at Malton, North Yorkshire, which is part of Ward Group.

They account for a substantial part of the steel purlins (triangular roof girders) market and have admitted to secret accords over seven years from 1983 onwards. The agreements have now ended.

This is the latest in a series of price-fixing cartels uncovered in the construction materials industry by the Office of Fair Trading. Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, has said the construction materials industry had the worst record for such practices.

Sir Gordon has campaigned for tougher laws to deter the cartels. Last year a white paper proposed reforms to the 30-year-old restrictive trade practices legislation, including powers to impose fines of up to £1 million on offending companies and up to £100,000 on company directors or managers involved in making cartel arrangements.

Companies can be fined only if a court order prohibiting an agreement is in force and the company has re-offended. Then fines can be unlimited.

The purlin deals were discovered after a complaint from a small manufacturer of steel purlins encountered problems in trying to expand its market share.

Sir Gordon has appealed to anyone

Next deals to net £80m



Cutting group borrowings: David Jones, Next chief executive

NEXT, the fashion and mail order retailer, is believed to be close to selling both its property development portfolio and Club 24, its credit card management operation (writes Gillian Bowditch). The group is expected to raise a total of £80 million from the disposals, which will be used to reduce the group's £133 million in borrowings.

Ford Sellar Morris, the property company chaired by Irvine Sellar, has made an offer of about £40 million for the property development portfolio. A deal is expected to be reached in the next four weeks.

FSM is believed to have been given an exclusive op-

portunity to buy the Next property division pending a review of the portfolio. FSM is said to have started pre-marketing Next properties which were valued in the company's accounts at £66 million. They include a large number of high street retail sites. If a deal is not done within the next few weeks FSM loses its exclusive option. David Jones, Next's chief executive, refused to comment.

Next has invited offers for its credit card operation and the auction has not yet closed. GE Capital, the financial arm of General Electric of the US which last month paid £182.7 million for Burton's financial services division is the favour-

ite to buy the operation. Next is expected to have finalised both deals by the time it announces interim results in October.

The proceeds of the sales will be used to reduce borrowings and could bring Next's gearing ratio down from 34 per cent to 15 per cent. There is also the possibility that the group will buy back some of the £100 million in convertible Eurobonds issued in 1987.

Next recently found a tenant for half its London flagship store in Kensington High Street. Pentos, the retailer which owns the bookshop chain Dillons, is to create London's largest book store on the site.

Queensway's 417 stores to reopen

LOWNDES Queensway, which went into receivership owing more than £200 million, is to open all its 417 stores today. The shops have been shut since the receivers were called in a week ago. The thousands who have paid millions in deposits for furniture and carpets, will be told where to find details of their insurance claims.

A City accountancy firm is expected to handle Lowndes' £15 million insurance policy for customer deposits. But customers will have to wait several days before learning whether the fund will be large enough to meet their claims in full.

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	500	34	52	84	30	37	42
& O	550	21	38	50%	3538	444%	
538)	600	8%	2228	74%	70	78%	
	650	2%	3%	-21	22%	-	

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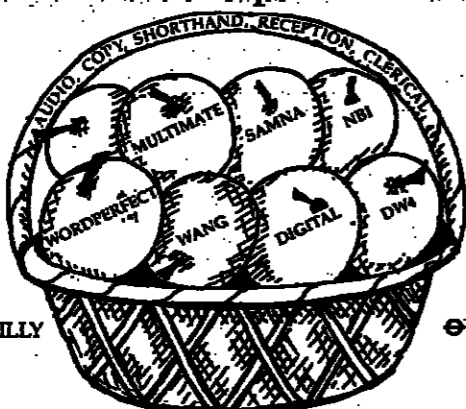
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Developers bet on a 1992 boom for City

About 15 million sq ft of new office buildings are scheduled for completion in the City of London by the end of 1991, the agent Weatherall Green & Smith concludes in a survey of development sites of more than 20,000 sq ft.

Of the estimated 15 million sq ft planned for the City, about 4.35 million sq ft is either pre-let or under offer. Weatheralls says these figures could suggest an oversupply but this is not necessarily the case. The market for modern City offices is likely to stabilise over the next year for a number of reasons.

Fred Hargreaves of Weatheralls points to interest in several buildings now nearing completion. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is in the market for 160,000 sq ft by the end of next year. Other large occupiers are thought to be close to agreeing terms for new space. In all, up to one million sq ft of new space could soon be absorbed.

A second reason is that many occupiers, particularly professional firms, are under pressure to move to quality modern buildings to upgrade their image and remain competitive in attracting the best workforce. They are likely to allocate more space per employee to accommodate information technology and improve their employees' working environment.

Another factor is increasing evidence that developers are deferring projects where there is no prospective tenant. This will have no impact this year but some building

New offices nearing completion in central London could fail to meet demand in the future race for space

scheduled for next year may be deferred. Building from 1992 onwards is likely to be put on ice until the economic climate is better.

Hargreaves adds that by 1992-93 there may be a shortage of new buildings in the City at a time when the removal of European trade barriers could increase demand. If this happens, it could lead to a significant recovery in the letting market.

A survey of the central London office market by Debenham Tewson Research comes to a slightly different conclusion.

This research indicates that there has been an improvement in take-up this month but the volume of office space coming on to the market, at around 1.8 million sq ft per month, still exceeds demand in the broader market.

The recent rise in take-up stabilised availability during July at 13.6 million sq ft. Debenham Tewson expects further significant rises in supply over the next six to nine months and estimates the stock of ready-to-occupy offices by early 1991 will have reached 16-17 million sq ft.

The survey shows that offices let, sold or placed under offer in the City, Holborn and the West End in July totalled 1.3 million sq ft, an increase of 88 per cent on the June total, and the highest monthly total this year.

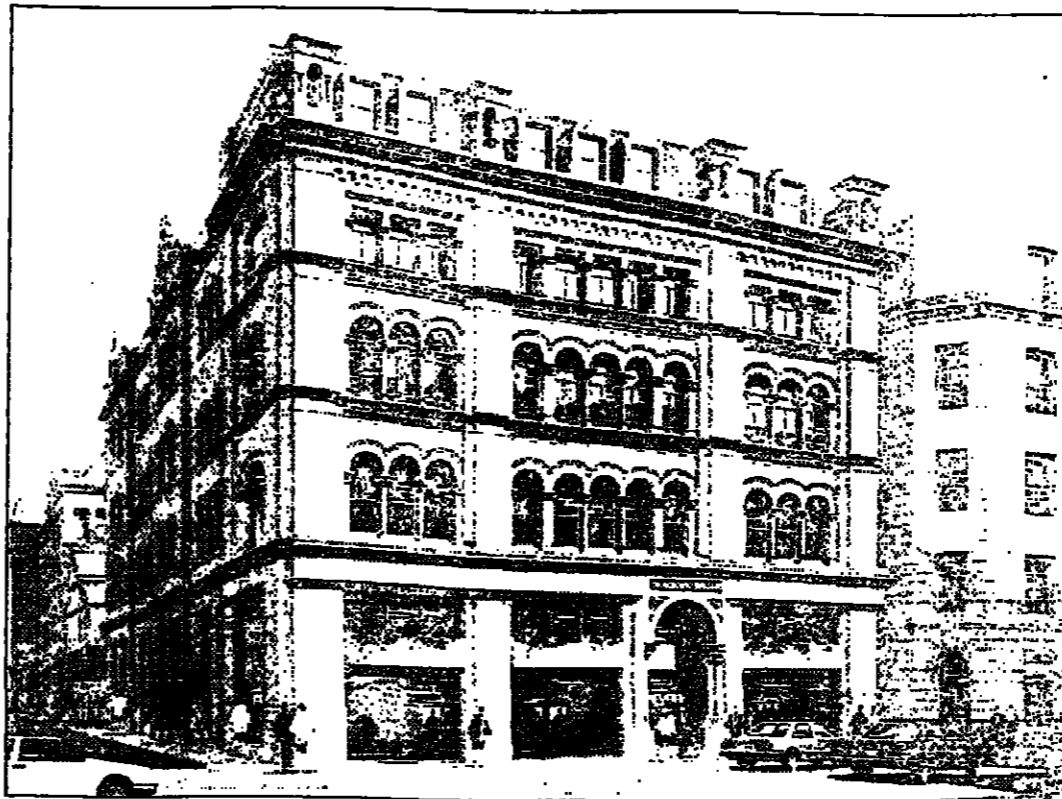
Take-up was boosted by a number of large deals of more than 50,000 sq ft, including 160,000 sq ft for Price Waterhouse at Milton Gate, EC2, and 96,000 sq ft agreed by Life at Speyhawk's Cannon Bridge station development.

Debenham Tewson says its survey confirmed the continuing demand for large units of new, quality offices at a time when the flow of such space on to the market was at a peak.

The City was helped by the increase in take-up. Available office space fell by three per cent during July to stand at 8.2 million sq ft. An increase in withdrawals from the market, including several of more than 50,000 sq ft, also contributed to the decline in availability.

Over supply affecting parts of the office market in central London and the south-east could well spread to the regions in 1991 and 1992, says Debenham Tewson.

While most provincial markets are now enjoying a boom, rental growth is down and demographic and economic forecasts do not support the planned level of building, it says.



MEPC has pre-let 23,174 sq ft of its 40,000 sq ft Newmarket office development in Manchester city centre. Sabre Leasing has taken a 25-year lease with five yearly rent reviews at a rent of £15.50 a sq ft which, says Lambert Smith Hampton, the letting agents, was local record. Newmarket, scheduled for completion this month, comprises two buildings of five storeys, linked at basement and ground-floor level.

Surrey Business Centres has introduced what it claims to be a new concept in flexible office accommodation, suitable for both small and larger companies and described as a "bureautel". Alan Whitehead, the company's founder, says a bureautel is just like an ordinary hotel in its operation, but instead of bedrooms with bath for hire, there are fully furnished and equipped offices for hire from one day upwards. The Athena House bureautel is situated above the underground station at Morden, Surrey, within easy reach of the City.

IN THE MARKET

Tass, the Soviet news agency, has taken 1,800 sq ft of offices at Swan House on High Holborn, London WC1, at a rent equal to £37 a sq ft, from the German publishing company Burda. The move was a result of Land Securities' redevelopment of the agency's former premises at Communications House, Gough Square, off Fleet Street, London EC4.

Stamford Land has gained planning permission for a 220 million hotel scheme set in a 75-acre development close to Toyota's new car plant at Willington, Derbyshire. The hotel, which will cost £12 million to build, includes a golf course and leisure centre. It will be well placed to take advantage of custom from the Japanese group's £700 million plant which will employ 3,000 people. The 114 bedroom hotel will have conference facilities, and the leisure scheme is due for completion by the end of 1992, in time for the full operation of the Toyota plant.

Lakeside soaks up £300m

A new shopping centre will be down the road for 13 million people

THURROCK Lakeside at West Thurrock, Essex, which will be one of Europe's largest shopping centres, is to be opened in October by Princess Alexandra.

There is a new £22 million link road joining the M25 to the centre. The road is one of the largest to be built with private funds in recent years, and was opened this month by the developer, Capital & Counties, ahead of schedule, to ease traffic while other road repairs are made.

The £300 million development on 150 acres of wasteland has taken two years to complete, with 2,000 men working on site around the clock.

Denis Marler, chairman of Capital & Counties, says that the centre will be within one hour's drive of 13 million people. He has tried to avoid parking difficulties by providing 9,000 car parking spaces and a 250-space coach park.

The centre includes a 20-acre lake, and will have more than one million square feet of enclosed retail space occupied by about 180 retailers, including major store chains such as Marks & Spencer, Debenhams, House of Fraser, and the Burton group.

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SPORT AND FITNESS

Britons are taking to the bicycle, the gym and the playing fields in an attempt to shape up. Anthony Cox reports on the facts behind the fitness fad

All toned up and fit for anything

Exercise is today's best buy in public health, according to the experts. But it is impossible to measure fitness without asking what the aim is. Medical tests measure the performance of different functions of the body, such as muscular strength or blood pressure, rather than a general physical state.

It is impossible, for example, to say whether a swimmer is fitter than a champion weight-lifter because, according to physical educationists, fitness means nothing more than the ability to carry out a particular activity. The swimmer is fit for swimming, the weight-lifter fit for swinging his dumb-bells. Different sports make different demands.

Nevertheless, at a lower level than the highly defined requirements of a specific sport, there is a sense in which we know what it means to be unfit. The person who finds himself breathless after climbing upstairs, for example, will grudgingly admit to being out of condition.

Exercise can benefit everyone, particularly the couch potato who ought to be fit enough to run for the bus when the need arises. Exercise contributes to an improvement in well-being and, even if that is difficult to define, everyone knows what it means.

Professor J.N. Morris, the chair-



Trim, taut and terrific at the Barbican Health & Fitness Centre, London. Exercise is one of the best buys in public health nowadays and it need not cost a fortune



man of the joint Sports Council, Health Education Authority, Fitness and Health Advisory Group, considers there is no better way for people to spend 1 or 2 per cent of their time. "Exercise," he says, "contributes to a reduction in mortality and morbidity and adds to the enjoyment of life. People feel better for it and they function better. It is of special value to the elderly in prolonging an active and independent life, and also to those with chronic diseases and disabilities. Many of them could make a start by just a little more walking. Much of the evidence for the benefits of ex-

ercise has been known for a long time but is still regularly ignored. It is not true that there is no gain without pain, but the pursuer of fitness will not reach his goal without effort. Frank Dick, a coach to Olympic athletes such as Daley Thompson, says: "Coaching someone who wants to lose a few pounds and get into shape is, in principle, no different from an athlete training for an Olympic gold medal."

While everyone has to be prepared to invest effort if they want to be fit, some are so keen to match their exercises to their status that they are prepared to

'Exercise contributes to a reduction in mortality and morbidity and adds to the enjoyment of life'

invest more to sweat it out in style and comfort. Top-class health and fitness clubs in London charge joining fees ranging from £250 to £1,500 and annual membership costs at least another £400.

Nevertheless, many keep-fit enthusiasts get by with little more than a ticket to the municipal swimming pool, a skipping rope and a few square feet of back garden or a pair of running shoes and a street map.

For some, the attempt to improve their level of fitness does not even require a lot of effort. It is possible to lie down and exercise — after a fashion — with a machine moving one's muscles. Motorised toning tables are appearing in Britain after catching the attention of North America's faddies.

The tables can help to strengthen muscles without the

heavy stress loads associated with traditional exercise, but they will not do anything for heart or lung fitness, which are always critical factors in any assessment of overall fitness.

The frequently drawn picture of a race of unfit Britons should not be accepted too readily. A recent survey underlined the popularity of cycling, golf and swimming among middle-aged men, and of dancing and keep-fit classes with women. It also showed that one in six young men played football. Another survey of leisure interests among 3,200 youngsters between 11 and 18 years old in Northern

Ireland, discovered that playing sport ranked higher than television or computer games.

However, according to Dr Neil Armstrong, the chairman of the British Association of Sports Sciences, British children are less active than they should be, even if they are not necessarily less fit than their predecessors.

Fitness tests by University of Exeter researchers on 400 children showed that 76.7 per cent of the boys and 87.7 per cent of the girls failed to exercise their hearts sufficiently each week. This is surprising because, as a demonstration that exercise need not be all-demanding to achieve the recommended minimum level of cardiovascular fitness, an individual need only take exercise equivalent to brisk walking for at least 20 minutes three times a week.

This fact is probably well-known, at least intuitively. Sports Council figures estimate that the number of people who regularly go for a walk of at least two miles totals 10 million.

The pursuit of fitness is not without risks. Injuries to muscles, tendons, ligaments and the skeleton can result from contact sports or from straightforward over-use. Should the pursuit of fitness carry a health warning? Not according to the Sports Council, which says: "When exercise is of a suitable intensity for the individual, regular, and undertaken with sensible precautions, the benefits greatly outweigh the risks."

Advice is available from local sports centres, recreation and leisure departments of local councils, the Sports Council, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0QE; the Health Education Authority, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1AH, and from many magazines and books.

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John O'Leary explains why you should never give up in the degree course hunt

may be more room in clearing than has been predicted so far. Demand for places following a similar pattern in recent years, with business and accountancy, law and media studies courses unlikely to feature strongly in clearing. Psychology is another subject in which the pressure on places has been rising, but other sciences are still showing plenty of vacancies and budding engineers should find themselves clearing well.

Sound advice from PCA is not to give up in any subject. Mike Scott, the deputy chief executive, said, "No course is full until it actually rolls, so there is always the possibility of a place for the person who turns up on the day with the right qualifications." Nor is it too

late to make an initial application through PCAS, which always experiences a second smaller rush when the universities' own guillotine on offers comes down early next month.

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Integrated Engineering
Birmingham: H100
Portsmouth: H100, H108
Sheffield: H100, H108
Sunderland: H110
Trent: H100, H300, H580

Internal Environment

London (South Bank): 042K
International Business
Country: N1B0
Liverpool: N1R2, N1R4, N1T4
London (South Bank): R1F, R1K, R2K
London (Thames): N120, NR52, NR54
Newcastle: N1T9

South West: Y400, Y401
 Sheffield: N1R2
 Sunderland: G6R1, G6R2, N141
 Teeside: G662
 Wales: 19TN
 Buckingham (HE): 91TN, N1T9, NT19
 Angle (HE): 005N
 Derby (HE): 021N

Dorset (HE): N9NS
Number (HE): N142
International Finance
Newcastle: N1T9
Buckingham (HE): Q21N
Anglia (HE): Q06N
Dorset (HE): N400

International Marketing
Huddersfield: N500
London (Thames): 0090, D900, NR52,
NR54
Newcastle: 9TEN
Aylesbury (HE): 006N
Derby (HE): 021N

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Farnham 0703 041000
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Farnington 0367 20205
Farnborough 0252 515511
Farnborough 0252 542210
Fleet 0252 542210
Gosport 0705 583115
Grays 0375 374442/3
Gt Yarmouth 0493 856723
Guilford 0493 856723

Juchacz 0483 576121
 Malsham 0323 841737
 Marlow 0279 25385
 Hastings 0424 425780
 Hatfield 07072 63048
 Havant 0705 484898
 Haywards Heath 0444 450282/3
 Heathfield 04352 3404
 Hemel Hempstead 0442 81511/3

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High Wycombe	0494 442277
Boreham	0403 81485
Lutterington	0480 425960
Tythe	0703 843914
Pewich	0473 230000
Pewich	0473 55801
King's Lynn	0553 773764
Alphington, Cambridgeshire	

agnoli 0525 372581
 atchworth 0482 685123
 ewes 0273 473141
 oughston 081 508 4110
 owestoft 0502 622682
 utton 0582 28864
 ymington 0680 72945
 aldenhead 0628 23481
 airistown 0623 572167

Hilton Keynes	0808 672601
Jewbury	0808 607612
Jewhaven	0635 417222
Newport(NOW)	0273 514427
North Walsham	0693 525060
Norwich	0692 403031
Oxford	0603 610746
Peterborough	0905 815989
	0733 311034

Portersfield	0730 62596
Pool	0202 743800
Portsmouth	0273 411751
Portsmouth	0705 374061
Portsmouth	0705 383191
Portsmouth	0705 786758
Portsmouth	0288 776838
Reading	0734 587772

loading	0734 875444
redhill	0737 773801
lingwood	04254 31103
lyde	0883 811301
lye	0787 224425
Metron Walden	0799 223889
Moreham	0273 463789
ough	0763 76136

outhampton	0703 223000
outhampton	0703 635100
outhend	0702 398133
Albens	0982 558844
Leonards-on-Sea	0424 423847
everage	0438 351582
ame	084421 4438
hetford	0842 753288

Donnington	0732 358788
Donnington	0703 871344
Donnington	0825 2585
Donnington	088288 2172
Donnington	0491 37221

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

Telephone numbers of Careers Offices throughout the United Kingdom

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Social security provisions incompatible with EC equal treatment directive

inconclusive nature of the statistics placed before the courts as yet unknown, impact of *Barber* decision was a firm basis upon which the discrimination suit involved 36(4)(d) and 37(5) could be justified by reference to assumed working life of an individual as opposed to a man generally exempted of that kind, which took no account of individual circumstances. It made without adequate facts basis itself discriminated against women.

The onus had to fall on secretary of state to show the designation of different limits for men and women was necessary and reasonable for entitlement to SDA and that was a necessary consequence of Parliament's having defined qualifications for entitlements by old-age and retirement benefits by reference to different limits for men and women.

For the reasons which he gave his Lordship did not think the onus had been or could be discharged. Accordingly, the state's appeals in the cases of Mrs Thomas, Mrs Cooze, Beard and Mrs Murphy.

He would allow the appeals. Mrs Morley and would not the matter to the social security commissioner concerned make the further necessary findings of fact and give the appropriate relief.

Sir Denis Buckley delivered concurring judgment and the Justice Secretary agreed with him.

Solicitors: Solicitors, DPH Smith Llewellyn Partners; Swansea: M. I. A. Roberts; Blandford: Wiseman, Lee, Ham; M. J. A. Laidlaw Manchester.

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HUGH ROUTLEDGE

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Journal of Management Education 30(6)

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1039-1043.


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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

ATTENDANCES IN 1988-89 AND 1989-90

Wen were two more internationals, Peter Czerniewski and Brian

dom, Denmark, Norway, Turkey and Australia.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

European Cup Winners' Cup
Preliminary round, first leg
Bay Wanderers v Trabzonspor (at MKA Park)

GVA Vauxhall Conference
Boston v Colchester
Welling v Fisher

Sokol Cup
Second round
Falkirk v Ayr (8.0)
Celtic v Park
Sawadworth v Hibernian (at Raith)
Cowdenbuth v Hearts (at Dunfermline, 8.0)

hury, Canterbury v Hythe; Dunstable v

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES
LEAGUE: First division: Githero v
Bosco; Leyland DAF v Vansda Gals
League 2 (at Knowley; Stannicore v
Bosco).

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier di-
vision: Bedford v Walsley; Crayke v
Plymouth Argyle (7.45); Crayke v
Ottens; Dunsley v Tormington (7.45);
Ottens v Dunsley (7.45); Sawthorne
v Burnstable (7.45); Welling v Bosco
Manor Farm; Weston-super-Mare v
Fram.

CRICKET

11.0, 104 overs rainless

ESB Oval: Glamorgan v Sri
Lankans

12.00 CRICKETLINE SECOND XI
Glamorgan v Sri Lanka

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Redbridge Forest v Grays; Wokingham v

Third division
Birmingham City
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Bolton Wanderers
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Bournemouth
 TRANSFERS: In: T Pulis (Gillingham, free). Out: None.
Bradford City
 TRANSFERS: In: McCarthy (Plymouth, £250,000); M Stuart (Plymouth, £30,000); R James (Swansea, £20,000); D Evans (Preston, £15,000); M Askewood (Bristol City, £125,000); A Davies (Swansea, free).
Brentford
 TRANSFERS: In: G Banstead (Sheffield Utd, £70,000). Out: R Stanislaus (Bury, £30,000).
Bury
 TRANSFERS: In: J McGinlay (Shrewsbury, £175,000); C Cresswell (Reading, £25,000); R Mauge (Fulham, tribunal); R Stanislaus (Brentford, £90,000). Out: J Hoyland (Sheffield Utd, tribunal).
Cambridge United
 TRANSFERS: In: R Wilkin (Colchester, £55,000). Out: None.
Chester City
 TRANSFERS: In: N Ellis (Bangor, £7,500). Out: C Woodthorpe (Norwich, £175,000).
Crewe Alexandra
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Exeter City
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Fulham
 TRANSFERS: In: S Rocastle (Norwich, free); A Kelly (Cardiff, £31,000). Out: R Barnett (Huddersfield, £27,500); R Mauge (Bury, tribunal); E Elkin (Wimbledon, £20,000); C Walker (Brighton, £20,000).
Grimsbury Town
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Huddersfield Town
 TRANSFERS: In: G Barnett (Fulham, £27,500); I Roberts (Watford, £20,000). Out: C Hutchings (Walsall, free); C Maskell (Reading, tribunal); A May (Bristol City, £30,000).
Leyton Orient
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: P Beesley (Sheffield Utd, £300,000).
Mansfield Town
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Preston North End
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Reading
 TRANSFERS: In: K McPherson (Northampton, tribunal); F Streets (Wolverhampton, free); C Maskell (Huddersfield, tribunal). Out: M Tait (Darlington, free).
Rotherham United
 TRANSFERS: In: N Law (Notts County, £35,000); G Forrest (Southampton, free). Out: P Heard (Cardiff, free).
Shrewsbury Town
 TRANSFERS: In: M Heathcote (Sunderland, £55,000); M Blake (Southampton, £100,000). Out: J McGinlay (Bury, £175,000).
Southend United
 TRANSFERS: In: B Angel (Stockport, tribunal). Out: D Crown (Gillingham, £50,000); J Edinborough (Tottingham, £150,000).
Stoke City
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: A Holmes (Doncaster, free); S Barrett (Colchester, free).
Swansea City
 TRANSFERS: In: A Watson (Halifax, £40,000); T Connor (Plymouth, tribunal); A Davies (Colchester, free). Out: A Mettelle (Oxford, £275,000); J Hughes (Falkirk, £70,000); R James (Bradford, tribunal).
Tranmere Rovers
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Wigan Athletic
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: N Whitworth (Manchester Utd, £100,000).
Fourth division
Aldershot
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Blackpool
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: S Morgan (Plymouth, £115,000); G Hobson (Plymouth, £115,000).
Burnley
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Cardiff City
 TRANSFERS: In: P Heard (Rotherham, free); M Jones (Swindon, free). Out: M Kelly (Fulham, £31,000).
Carlisle United
 TRANSFERS: In: E Gates (Sunderland, free); R Taylor (Stridington, £3,000). Out: None.
Chesterfield
 TRANSFERS: In: L Francis (Arsenal, free). Out: None.
Darlington
 TRANSFERS: In: M Tait (Reading, free). Out: C Hope (Nottm Forest, £50,000).
Doncaster Rovers
 TRANSFERS: In: A Holmes (Stoke, free); E Gormley (Totterham, free). Out: None.
Gillingham
 TRANSFERS: In: D Crown (Southend, £50,000). Out: T Pulis (Bournemouth, free).
Halifax Town
 TRANSFERS: In: P Fletcher (Barnsley, free); D Evans (Bradford, free); T Gregory (Sheffield Wed, free). Out: N Matthews (Stockport, £70,000); A Watson (Swansea, £40,000).
Hartlepool United
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Hereford United
 TRANSFERS: In: N Vaughan (Wolverhampton, free). Out: None.
Lincoln City
 TRANSFERS: In: S Dunphy (Barnsley, free); W Saunders (Dundee, £50,000). Out: None.
Maidstone United
 TRANSFERS: In: L Henry (Watford, £40,000); D Madden (Crystal Palace, free). Out: W Barton (Wimbledon, £300,000).
Northampton Town
 TRANSFERS: In: G Campbell (Plymouth, free). Out: W Donald (Chester, free); K McPherson (Reading, tribunal); R Wilcox (Hull, £80,000).
Peterborough United
 TRANSFERS: In: P Bradshaw (West Bromwich, free); K Bremner (Brighton, £18,000). Out: None.
Rochdale
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Scarborough
 TRANSFERS: In: P Mudd (Hull, £5,000). Out: None.
Scunthorpe United
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Stockport County
 TRANSFERS: In: N Matthews (Halifax, £70,000); P Cooper (Manchester City, free). Out: B Angel (Southend, tribunal).
Torquay United
 TRANSFERS: In: T Tynan (Plymouth, free); W Saunders (Dundee, £50,000). Out: None.
Walsall
 TRANSFERS: In: D Barnett (West Bromwich, free); C Hutchings (Huddersfield, free). Out: None.
Wrexham
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
York City
 TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.

SPORT ON TV

BASEBALL: Sweepstakes 14:30-16:30 and 21:00-22:00; Major League highlights from the United States.	MOTOR SPORT: Sweepstakes 11:00-13:00 Highlights of the world prototype touring car race from Germany and Scotland. Sweepstakes 16:30-17:00 and 18:00-19:00 Highlights of the German rally championships and RACV GTV races. 23:00-midnight On Four Wheels.
CYCLING: Sweepstakes 15:00-18:00. Highlights of the Tour de France.	RACING: Sweepstakes 08:30-10:30; Highlights of earlier international from the grand's Club.
GOLF: Sweepstakes 14:00-15:00 and 21:00-22:00; PGA Golf.	PAPERBOATS: INTERNATIONAL: Sweepstakes 14:00-15:00 and 21:00-22:00. RACING: SSR 13:30-14:00 and 22:00-22:30. Racing news.
HOCKEY: Sweepstakes 15:00-18:00. Highlights of the Nations Cup.	SURFING: SSR 13:30-14:00 and 22:00-22:30. Surfing news.
JUDO: Sweepstakes 14:00-15:00 and 21:00-22:00. Highlights of the World Championships from Lyon.	TENNIS: SSR 18:30-19:30. Tennis news.
FOOTBALL: Sweepstakes 17:00-17:30 and 21:00-22:00; Highlights of the European Cup and UEFA Champions League. Highlights of the Sixt Cup Coler v' Air.	TENPIN BOWLING: Sweepstakes 13:15-14:30; Pro Bowlers Association.
SWIMMING: Sweepstakes 10:30-11:30 and 21:00-22:00. Highlights of the International Open from Belgium and The International from Colorado. Sweepstakes 13:30-14:00. Highlights of the Old School.	WORLD'S WRESTLING WORLD SPORT: Sweepstakes 22:00-23:00.
HOCKEY: Sweepstakes 15:00-17:00. Highlights of Netherlands v Pakistan from the Netherlands.	VOLLEYBALL: Sweepstakes 10:00-11:00.

Young err on the side of safety

By JOHN WOODCOCK

NORTHAMPTON (final day of four): England Under-19 drew with Pakistan Under-19. WITH a little more spunk and rather greater awareness of England's young cricketers might have won the first of their three day matches against their Pakistani counterparts at Northampton yesterday. Instead they gave priority to avoiding defeat, and the match was a draw.

At close of play on Monday, England were 269 for four in reply to Pakistan's first innings of 258 for eight declared. They had two constructive options: either to declare overnight or to continue batting, so long as they did so purposefully. Instead, they plodded pointlessly along until they were all out half an hour after lunch.

When, eventually, Pakistan did go in again, they were soon losing wickets — but it was too late by then to bring about their downfall. To have tried to put the Pakistanis under pressure at this time would have involved no risk to England. I am afraid, when I saw much the same young England side playing their last winter match, they seemed concerned with making sure they could not lose before trying to win.

The irony here at Northampton was that by far the best of the English batting came when, through Grayson, Holloway, and Crawley, they were pursuing the initiative. When Holloway was second out on Monday afternoon, in the 52nd over, the score was already 197. In 85 overs after that, England scored only another 155 runs.

It looks to me as though limited-overs cricket, arranged finishes, and the modern obsession with medium pace are combining to obscure from young minds what can be achieved with a touch of blarney, a dash of ingenuity, a slice or two of luck, and an eye for the calculated risk.

Even so, England would probably have won yesterday but for a remarkable innings from Zahid Fazal. If the four brothers who played for England last year were still in the side, they would have been a formidable force. He looks at least old enough to be Tendulkar's father, and his ball like a kicking mule. Twice he cleared the pavilion with enormous drives off Robert's leg breaks, the ball never losing speed again after the second of them.

It was a spinner who got him, though. Grayson, orthodox left-arm, removed Fazal with his first ball, and then Lacey with his second. Pakistan were the equivalent then of 68 for seven with 20 minutes plus 20 overs left. It was as near as they were to get to losing.

Rowe hits out to set up win

By GEORGE CHESTERTON

THE losing finalists last year, South Wiltshire, beat Spendon in the final of the under-15 club championship. Russell Rowe, the South Wiltshire captain and wicketkeeper, received the Harry Scobee Cup from Tim Brier, president of the Lord's Taverners, while Gary Linaker, the England and Tottenham football player, presented medals to the participants.

Rowe, who opened the innings for South Wiltshire, struck the ball hard and in a second-wicket partnership with Stuart Gulliver, a willowy left-hander, put on 62 runs. When they slumped from 82 for three to 98 all out, their chances looked slim.

Like their opponents, Spendon lost a wicket without a run on the board. Mark Stallard and Greg Holland struck the ball hard and in a stand of 28, but the latter played the ball in the air once too often and was caught at cover. Cruse caught a fine catch over his head, and Stephen Elcock bowled idly, taking two for four, to retrieve his honour, having been caught behind off the first ball of the match.

In an effort to catch up with the required rate, Spendon suffered three run-outs, the third an excellent throw by Stuart Nash and they were bowled out with an over to spare, for only 57.

This competition, which started in April, has been sponsored for the sixth year by Sun Life of Canada. More than 10,000 boys from nearly 1,000 clubs have taken part in the event.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: Swanscott 113-2 (M O'Brien), Spendon 114-3 (S Clarke 54); South Wiltshire 132-8 (R Howe 58), South Woodroffe 107-4 (S Clarke 54). For final places: Swanscott 131-2 (M O'Brien), South Wiltshire 132-8 (R Howe 58).

Final: South Wiltshire 132-8 (R Howe 58) beat South Woodroffe 107-4 (S Clarke 54) by 25 runs.

Umpires: J. D. B. and J. D. B.

Man of the Match: R. Howe.

Man of the Series: R. Howe.

Man of the Year: R. Howe.

Man of the Decade: R. Howe.

Man of the Century: R. Howe.

Man of the Millennium: R. Howe.

Man of the Future: R. Howe.

Man of the Universe: R. Howe.

Man of the Galaxy: R. Howe.

Man of the Solar System: R. Howe.

Man of the Universe: R. Howe.

Man of the Galaxy: R. Howe.

Man of the Solar System: R. Howe.

Man of the Universe: R. Howe.

Man of the Galaxy: R. Howe.

Man of the Solar System: R. Howe.

Unbearable tenseness as Roses match is drawn

Sharp sees his side through despite breaking his thumb

By JACK BAILEY

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire (5ns) drew with Yorkshire (4).

THIS was far from being just another drawn Roses match. There was a real tenseness about the day which became almost unbearable at the end as Batty, Yorkshire's last man, joined Sharp for the last five overs bowled by Watkinson and Wasim Akram.

There were real heroics, too. Sharp coming in at the fall of the eighth wicket, batting through 14 overs with a fractured right thumb, and seeing his side through. He looked the calmest man on the ground as he did so.

Then there was Watkinson's tour de force. He bowled 44 consecutive overs of off spin from the Warwick Road end, took five wickets, and all but bowled his team to victory. Watkinson is ranked officially as a medium-pace swing-and-seam merchant. He has bowled spinners before but so far he has always reverted. After yesterday's performance and seven wickets in the match, he must be wondering.

For Lancashire, coming so close and yet failing will be a great disappointment and a considerable blow to their championship hopes. Yet there was little more than a shrug from the Yorkshire captain, who declared overnight, to the manner and timing of his declaration and the handling of his bowlers, it was impossible to fault him.

The agreement reached between the rival captains saw Yorkshire declare at their overnight total, 243 runs behind and clearly with great expectations of a target that would enable them to get back into the match with some chance of winning. This Hughes duly provided, his declaration leaving Yorkshire to make 317 from a minimum of 91 overs, with the spinners likely to provide more than that.

For a time all went well with Yorkshire's cause. Moxon, whose declaration had deprived him of a coveted Roses match century, carried on where he had left off. Lancashire's spinners were soon pressed into service. Watkinson bowling towards the more helpful end, but the serene way in which Yorkshire captain batted to a brisk accompaniment by Metcalfe meant that chances of a Yorkshire victory were kept alive.

These two put on 77 and when Metcalfe left to a catch, clutched to Allott's midriff at slip, Yorkshire were well up to his 50 out of 104 from 71 balls before hitting a full toss from Atherton down midwicket's throat.

Hughes's play was to keep Watkinson going at one end and using Akram — in short bursts — at the other. Gradually, the Yorkshire wickets were whittled away. A win was no longer a realistic prospect once four of them were out for 116, but Carrick batted bravely after being missed when three and kept Yorkshire's head above water for more than two hours while making a valiant 57.

He fell victim to Watkinson. Cook faced 103 balls, hit ten fours and took his aggregate to 191 and his total for the season to 2,360. Hayhurst, who had twice straight driven Maru for six, was stumped against the spinner soon afterwards. Tavaré and Harden then added a near decisive 31 in 13 overs. Tavaré regularly lapped runs against Maru.

Somerset still needed 56 from seven overs when Harden lifted a well disguised slower ball from Cook to mid-wicket. A further 30 were needed from five overs when Tavaré was run out.

The issue was effectively settled in the 18th over of the last 17 when an over by Maru cost 17 runs, including a six out of the gate by Rose and four by Rose's 33 not out came from 19 balls.

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Sussex v Kent

HOVE (final day of three): Sussex (5ns) drew with Kent (4). **RESULTS:** First innings: Sussex 243, Kent 116. Second innings: Sussex 116, Kent 243. **Umpires:** J. D. B. and J. D. B.

Man of the Match: R. Howe.

Man of the Series: R. Howe.

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Foster sends out an Essex warning

Jayasuriya quickly into action

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

ESSEX, playing with a confidence and style that bodes no good for any of their rivals, moved into second place in the Britannia Assurance championship yesterday, beating Surrey by the handsome margin of 243 runs at Chelmsford, their sixth win in their last nine games. They are two points behind Middlesex with a game in hand.

Surrey, who scored only 114 in their first innings, again found the bowling of Foster too much for them and were dismissed for 120. Foster taking six for 32 to give himself match figures of 11 for 76. Andrew backed him up with six for 61.

Afterwards, Gooch, who will be free of his England responsibilities for the final four matches of the run-in, said he had never lost faith in his side, even when they were languishing in the lower reaches of the table. "I always felt we could get back into it by putting together a few wins and that is what has happened, although there is still a long way to go before anything is settled. Foster bowled brilliantly for us and took full advantage of a pitch offering a bit of pace and bounce."

The Gloucestershire revival at Trent Bridge, begun by an inspired spell of bowling from Lawrence, was carried through by a doughty, then took charge from Russell, who batted in his best England vein for four hours and squeezed 134 from the last four wickets.

Nottinghamshire, who found themselves needing 236 from 42 overs, were held in check by tight bowling, then took charge at 155 for eight. The chasing teams also finished on the wrong end of draws at Worcester and Hove, both denied by taxing left-arm spin.

Worcestershire, needing 241 to beat Nottinghamshire, clung on at 157 for seven. Nick Cook, who had hit stumpers for 50, ending with four for 37. Sussex, set 312 to beat injury-hit Kent, passed 190 with eight wickets in hand but that is what has happened, although there is still a long way to go before anything is settled. Foster bowled brilliantly for us and took full advantage of a pitch offering a bit of pace and bounce."

Worcestershire (5ns) drew with Nottinghamshire (4).

RESULTS: First innings: Worcestershire 243, Nottinghamshire 116. Second innings: Worcestershire 116, Nottinghamshire 243. **Umpires:** J. D. B. and J. D. B.

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Rose hits Somerset to a rare victory

By RICHARD STREETON

TAUNTON (final day of four): Somerset (22pts) beat Hampshire (8) by five wickets.

HARD hitting by Graham Rose, who struck three sixes in the closing stages, brought Somerset victory after they chased only their second championship win of the season. Hampshire had left them a target of 302 from what became 61 overs.

The final outcome will bring considerable satisfaction to Somerset, who placed their innings shrewdly and who this summer have not always been blessed by good fortune. Hampshire's failure to win, though, caused them to lose vital ground in the title race.

Hampshire's disappointment must have been all the more acute because two balls had "popped" nastily towards the close of their own innings. One of them brought Gower's dismissal and it was enough to suggest that the pitch was starting to crumble.

In the event the odd ball kept low and Maru got some turn, but the Somerset batsmen were seldom in a position to seriously inconvenience Cook. Instead the run chase was a marvellous 77 and, though some momentum was briefly lost later, Somerset always looked the more likely to win.

Cook scored freely from the start as he drove, cut and pushed the new ball into the gaps with calm certainty. Nicholas had been caught behind at 84 but the score was 147 before Cook was out. Marshall had returned and his fifth ball kept low and had the South African leg-before.

Cook faced 103 balls, hit ten fours and took his aggregate to 191 and his total for the season to 2,360. Hayhurst, who had twice straight driven Maru for six, was stumped against the spinner soon afterwards. Tavaré and Harden then added a near decisive 31 in 13 overs. Tavaré regularly lapped runs against Maru.

Somerset still needed 56 from seven overs when Harden lifted a well disguised slower ball from Cook to mid-wicket. A further 30 were needed from five overs when Tavaré was run out.

The issue was effectively settled in the 18th over of the last 17 when an over by Maru cost 17 runs, including a six out of the gate by Rose and four by Rose's 33 not out came from 19 balls.

Hampshire earlier were seldom able to score as quickly as they would have wished against the main Somerset bowlers, and their declaration was delayed by an hour after lunch. Harden's rarely used left-arm spin brought him return catches from Terry and Chris Smith as the batsmen later tried to increase the tempo. In between these wickets lower power got a lifting ball from Leffers and was caught in the covers as he tried to play through the leg side.

Sussex v Kent

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RESULTS: First innings: Sussex 243, Kent 116. Second innings: Sussex 116, Kent 243. **Umpires:** J. D. B. and J. D. B.

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